

Guerrillas kidnap 400 pupils from school in Rhodesia

A guerrilla gang has kidnapped 400 boys and girls aged between 10 and 20 from a mission school in north-west Rhodesia. Five s, two priests and a school were also abducted and all marched across the Botswana border but a priest and four pupils d to escape. Mr Cyrus the American Secretary of State, said in Washington that the Rhodesian authorities "should understand clearly that under no circumstances can they count on any form of American assistance in their effort to prevent majority rule". Last week's announcement by Mr Smith had resulted in "a new and more dangerous situation" (report, page 7).

Forced march into Botswana

Adrick Cleary
Jan 31
400 pupils have been taken from a mission school in north-west Rhodesia. Five s, two priests and a school were also abducted and all marched across the Botswana border but a priest and four pupils d to escape. Mr Cyrus the American Secretary of State, said in Washington that the Rhodesian authorities "should understand clearly that under no circumstances can they count on any form of American assistance in their effort to prevent majority rule". Last week's announcement by Mr Smith had resulted in "a new and more dangerous situation" (report, page 7).

Government it-turn private lords

Government yesterday voted that the Rent in many respects might have to revise to private landlords. The Department of the Environment has announced that it will "inhibit" stock of housing used to full advantage in proper management. "There doubt that the comd obscurity of the source of frustration ey to landlords, d those responsible soring and interpretation." The whole concept enting, the document represent a political At the very least it is for the time being is the only one that needs of a diminished considerable population, particularly, single and ew of the various which the Govan opposing forms part of review of housal finance in which ent is engaged, and a of which are published later r too obvious, hown that field at least g ideas and sugges outside. Having he Government's t to the general t security of tenure, a vague phraseology, for instance, "to t the methods and the determination to meet lies faced by both and tenants" and t to provide a legiswork which main balance between s of tenants and so that private modon can con actively to meeting ds and choices" o the Government's over, may lie in words of the last which suggests that system may "evolve forms of housing and acceptable to landlords and their years to carry the of Mr Fresson, r Housing and Conat cooperatives and schemes" and individual landlords al authority inter-

TUC presses for state sector lead on Bullock

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Trade unions are pushing ahead with plans to introduce Bullock-style industrial democracy in the public sector well in advance of the Government's proposals to legislate for worker-directors in private industry. The TUC has drawn up a list of more than 20 state-owned industries and subsidiaries within which trade union representation at board level is to be demanded in line with the Bullock report. Those enterprises employ more than 2,500 workers. The unions aim to accelerate the pace of acceptance of worker power in the state sector by proving that it can work in state-run industry. A confidential policy paper prepared for the TUC's nationalized industries committee says that the Government must make a coordinated approach to extensions of industrial democracy in the nationalized industries and the private sector "through the introduction of this session of an industrial democracy (companies and nationalized industries) Bill based broadly on the recommendations of the majority report of the Bullock Committee". The Government is undertaking an inter-departmental inquiry into methods of extending industrial democracy into the state sector, the TUC document says. "In particular industries discussions between management and trade union for extending industrial democracy are well advanced". Those industries are believed to be the Post Office Corporation where plans for six trade union members on the board are nearing completion, and British Steel, where plans are being made for parity representation at divisional board level. The TUC says that a common thread in all the state sector developments is the belief that the representational rights of workers in the public sector should be "at least equal to those in the private sector". The right to be represented at board level should also be an integral part of the new law, whether the unions choose to exercise it or not. Union leaders in the public sector have been asked to submit reports on their progress in negotiating worker participation in their industries to a further meeting of the TUC nationalized industries committee, which is likely to be held within the next month. That will be long before the expiry of the consultative period laid down by the Government for the private sector. Mr Jack Jones, the transport workers' leader and a TUC-nominated member of the Bullock committee, has been elected chairman of the nationalized industries committee. He is understood to be looking for quick results in state industry bargaining over worker-directors to buttress the unions' case for similar reforms in private enterprise. The final sentence of the TUC document suggests further industrial TUC talks "recognizing the likelihood of legislation giving broadly parallel rights to organized workers in both sectors of the economy". Public sector organizations listed by the TUC as being affected by the forthcoming legislation are: the British Steel Corporation, the Post Office Corporation, British Airways, British Rail, British Gas, the Electricity Council, the

Bill to extend censorship in South Africa

The South African President is to be given wide powers to enforce wartime-type censorship in the event under outbreaks of internal unrest, it was introduced yesterday and expected to become law. The censorship regulations could be imposed on both foreign and domestic journalists. Another Bill will extend the scope of "petty apartheid" regulations. Page 7

Hostage flies home

A special aircraft flew from France to Libya to bring back Mme Françoise Claustre, the archaeologist released after nearly three years as a hostage of Chad rebels. The release of Mme Claustre and her husband was arranged by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. Page 7

Behind the shield

Green Shield trading stamps are collected by three quarters of the population, a report by The Economist Intelligence Unit says. Outlets include 10,000 food shops and 9,800 garages accounting for half of all petrol sales. Page 5

Chancellor and Bank of England Governor call on 'big three' to reflate economies Britain has turned the financial corner, Mr Healey says

By David Blake
and Christopher Wilkins
In two carefully-complementary speeches last night the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England claimed that Britain had turned the financial corner. Mr Healey and Mr Gordon Richardson coupled their claim, made at the annual Overseas Bankers' Dinner, with a call to the world's big three—Japan, Germany and the United States—to reflate their economies to bring down unemployment. Countries like Britain, on the other hand, had no option but to press on with policies of severe restraint and to rely on exports to bring down unemployment eventually. Much of the Chancellor's speech, in which he called for "determination", was clearly aimed at the two important meetings he will be attending this week—with trade union leaders whom he sees today to discuss the next round of pay restraint—and with the members of the National Economic Development Council, which meets tomorrow to discuss the Government's industrial strategy. Mr Healey said that fighting unemployment and reducing inflation were the two main targets of the Government's economic policy, and that one could not be achieved without the other. He praised the success of the first two rounds of pay policy and stressed that unemployment would go up even more sharply than expected if agreement on a new policy were not reached. In addition, there had to be more investment and better use of the country's resources to enable British companies to compete more effectively in world markets. The decline of the value of sterling had enabled exporting to become profitable, and attention must now be focused on the non-price aspects of competition. Any cut in unemployment must come from exports, he said, backing this up with a vivid description of the difficulties into which the United Kingdom had run during the summer of last year, which he described as "a salutary warning to those who persist in believing that money does not matter". In the nearest thing yet seen to a statement that last year's policies were wrong, coupled with a reaffirmation that the present policies were right, he said that last summer's failure to make the financial adjustment necessary had had "enormous" consequences, and December's measures had "transformed the situation". Calling on the rich industrial nations to stimulate their economies, he urged that for every extra percentage point of growth in the "big three", world trade was likely to rise by one per cent. Loss of output was costing the world \$300,000m (about £180,000m) a year. In his speech Mr Richardson drew attention to the renewed inflow of money to London, saying that this represented a reversal of the leads and lags built up last year and benefited from the ending of sterling's role in trade. It is believed that about 60 per cent of the inflow is accounted for by movements such as these, leaving only 40 per cent made up of "hot money" of the sort the authorities are keen to keep out. He stressed the improvement in Britain's payments position which should result from North Sea oil, but gave warning that this must not be frittered away, especially in the light of Britain's \$20,000m of medium-term debt which had to be repaid. He also spoke of the problems facing developing countries, and called for a stepping up of the lending powers of international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund to help finance deficit countries. Others at the dinner included Dr Oskar Emminger of the German Federal Bank and Dr Johannes Witteveen of the IMF.



The Queen, whose silver jubilee occurs on Sunday, in the throne room of Buckingham Palace wearing the necklace made for Queen Victoria's golden jubilee.

Amin search fails to find Britons in missing plane

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Jan 31
A party of Britons was still missing somewhere in Uganda tonight, 36 hours after their aircraft had disappeared on a short flight to a national park. The situation was confused. Earlier in the day radio signals from the Ugandan pilot of the aircraft, a de Havilland twin-engine Otter, were received by an air traffic controller in Nairobi. The message said the aircraft had made a forced landing only 15 miles from its destination, the airstrip in the Kidepo Valley National Park, and all the passengers and crew were safe. But late tonight Uganda radio quoted President Amin as saying that the aircraft still had not been located. The President led the rescue operation himself, with five aircraft and two helicopters searching hundreds of square miles of Uganda from dawn to dusk. But they had found no trace of the missing aircraft, the radio said. President Amin was quoted as saying: "With the blessing of God it will be found." It appeared that the occupants, who include the Hungarian-born authoress Judith, Countess of Listowel, 71, were stranded for a second night in wild and uninhabited country. Uganda radio said earlier reports that there were 18 Britons on board were not correct. The aircraft contained 16 Britons and two Ugandan officials. The Britons were in Uganda as guests of President Amin for last week's celebrations marking the sixth anniversary of his military coup.

Attorney General says he won after court's ruling on postal clash

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster
The constitutional controversy between Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, and the Court of Appeal over the threatened boycott by the Union of Post Office Workers of mail to South Africa was thrown into further confusion yesterday. Mr Silkin, supported by Labour MPs in the Commons, maintained that, contrary to an impression given in all newspapers after the court's judgment last Thursday, on the two main constitutional questions involved the judges had ruled in his favour by two to one, with Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in a minority. If that claim is correct, and yesterday no one on the Conservative benches denied it, there will be, as several MPs observed, little or no necessity for an appeal to the House of Lords because the main issues have been settled in favour of the Attorney General. Mr Silkin told the Commons that he was still considering, with his advisers, the possibility of an appeal, because some matters decided by the Court of Appeal were important but outside the main constitutional matters. The way for an appeal is now open to the Attorney General, should he wish, after a ruling yesterday by the Speaker that the House could not be involved in the decision. He said the Attorney General was an independent law officer of the Crown and if he decided to appeal to the Lords his action would be taken in that capacity. He also ruled that the competence of the House of Lords to consider the case was not for him to decide. If the House wished to debate the status of the Attorney General in the manner, MPs were perfectly free to do so. Earlier, Mr Silkin said he had had time to study the court's judgments and it appeared that some reports had left out the fact that Lord Denning finished his judgment and did not stay to hear the judgments of the other two judges, Lords Justice Lawton and Ormrod. Lord Denning was in the minority on the main question. The court, he said, had decided in his favour by two to one on the two main constitutional questions. Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Haringey, Tottenham, who first raised with the Speaker the question of the appeal to the Lords, said that every newspaper in the country had reported the verdict of the Appeal Court wrongly by concentrating on Lord Denning. He suggested that that ruled out the necessity of appealing to the Lords. The two main issues referred to by Mr Silkin were: whether the Attorney General's discretion was subject to review by

Carter plan to admit press to his Cabinet

From Fred Emery
Washington, Jan 31
President Carter said on his campaign trail, and apparently in a bid to open his weekly Cabinet meetings to partial press coverage. Today, he told his Cabinet that he was considering the possibility of admitting a single news reporter, who would issue a "pooled account" for the rest of the press. The President acknowledged at the start of today's session that there would be obvious problems, such as national security matters, and the presence of the press might inhibit the making of a frank suggestion that could look silly in print. But he also hinted that these might not be real obstacles because they could proceed without specific restriction, and there would be leaks anyway from such a large group. Cabinet meetings are attended by the President, the Vice-President, the secretaries of the 11 Government departments, and numerous members of the White House staff. "My own feeling is that the last Cabinet meeting was superb—absolutely unprecedented—and I want the people to know the Government is in good hands."

Claudine Longet to serve 30 days for lover's death

Aspen, Colorado, Jan 31—Claudine Longet, the French-born singer, was today sentenced to 30 days in jail for the negligent homicide shooting of her lover, Vladimir Sabich, a skiing champion, and was told that she could serve it any time before the end of summer. Her former husband, Mr Andy Williams, the singer, was sitting in the courtroom as the district judge told Miss Longet she hoped the sentence would purge public hostility towards her. "It is apparent there is a segment of the public nation-wide which does not know that she did not intend to cause the tragic death of 'Spider' Sabich and was never charged with that", he said.—Reuter.

Burning whisky lorry blocks motorway in fog

An articulated lorry, with 5,000 gallons of whisky ablaze, blocked the Glasgow to Edinburgh motorway near Newhouse, Strathclyde, last night, after being in a multi-vehicle collision in dense fog. Five people were taken to hospital. Black ice, freezing fog, heavy rain, sleet and snow made driving conditions hazardous in many parts. In Westmorland and Cumbria the A66 was blocked in places, and the A6 was blocked at Shap. Yorkshire had freezing fog, and in the Midlands and East Anglia black ice hampered drivers. Glasgow airport closed because of fog. Weather forecast, page 2

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Michael Ratcliffe on <i>Fathers and Families</i> (BBC 1 tonight); Paul Overy on the reopening of the Whitechapel Art Gallery; William Mann on Montserrat Caballé at Covent Garden; Richard Williams on R. Cooder at Hammersmith	Sport, pages 10 and 11
Football: Trevor Francis included in England's party for match against the Netherlands; FA Cup draw; Athletics: Britain's teams chosen for indoor internationals; Racing: Prospects for Chesham meeting	Business News, pages 17-22
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ME NEWS

Three quarters of the population collect Green Shield stamps

By Peter Hamessy

Shield stamps, started and now holding three-quarters of the population, are by three-quarters of the population, according to an analysis of the stamp industry published yesterday by The Economist Unit. The analysis, which is 58 pages, and costs

food for thought there for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in seeking acceptance for the next phase of wage restraint. Retailers who have a trading stamp franchise benefit through increased sales. Green Shield stamps are bought on the profit on its bulk-bought "gifts". So who pays?

The report says that although there is conflicting evidence, surveys indicate that stamps do not push up prices. "It is obvious from the fact that 71 per cent of the population collect stamps that the majority believe in the value of stamps", it adds.

That may overlook an additive element to the collection of stamps, recognized by the authors in a reference to the value of special offers of thousands of stamps on big purchases. "It cannot be stressed too much that such schemes help to keep people in stamp-savers' habits", the report says.

There is a cloud on the horizon of this otherwise almost perfect product. Several of Britain's EEC partners have rules severely restricting the use of trading stamps, on the ground that they constitute unfair competition, stealing trade from non-franchised shopkeepers and aiding the development of monopolies.

Most countries want legislation to be standardized, and discussions are under way, although the report asserts that "harmonization need not be expected in the comparatively near future".

Trading Stamps in the United Kingdom (The Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd, £40).

Whitehall pay report urges cut of 8 1/4%

By Peter Hamessy

MPs were told yesterday that civil servants' salaries would need to be reduced by up to 8 1/4 per cent to allow for the value of their inflation-proof pensions compared with private-sector schemes.

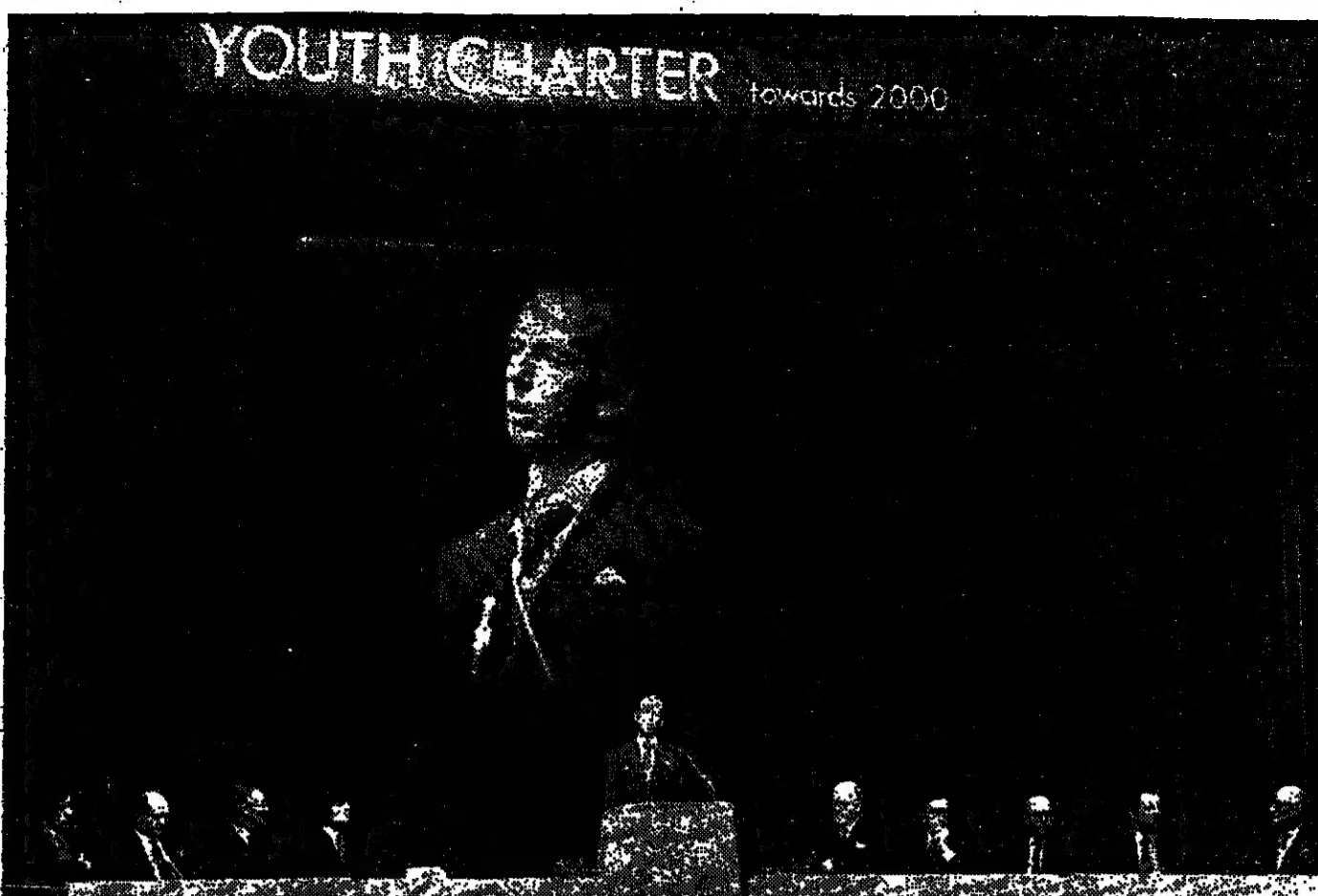
The general subcommittee of the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure, which is investigating Whitehall, had before it a memorandum from Mr Geoffrey Heywood, senior actuary partner with Duncan C. Fraser and Co, suggesting that the deduction of 14 per cent from Civil Service salaries was too low. If interest rates and inflation continued at 8 per cent for a long period the deduction should be 10 per cent.

The 14 per cent was calculated in 1973 by the Government Actuary on the long-term assumption of interest rates at 8 per cent, 6 per cent salary growth and 4 per cent price inflation. Suspension in 1975 of the Civil Service pay research system, based on comparison with private sector jobs had prevented a revision.

A joint memorandum from the Government Actuary and the Civil Service Department said Mr Heywood's assumptions were unrealistic. MPs urged Mr Edward Johnson, the Government Actuary, to update the 1973 figure. He agreed that a current calculation would produce a different figure.

His department is surveying private schemes for revised comparison.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Conservative MP for Cranborne and Tisbury, said the 1973 calculation showed incompetence. Everybody knew the inflation rate would soar beyond 4 per cent.



Neglect of youth: The splendour of the £13m Wembley Conference Centre, which was officially opened yesterday by the Duke of Kent (above, with his photograph projected by closed circuit television), could not mask the depressing message that came from the inaugural conference being held there this week (Penny Symon writes).

Successive governments had failed to provide adequately for the needs of Britain's young people, and there had been no consideration of ways in which expenditure could be reallocated to meet those needs.

The National Council of Social Service and the National Youth Bureau, which are

sponsoring Youth Charter towards 2000, have an ambitious aim. They hope to define and publicize the difficulties faced by young people and draw up a youth charter.

Mr Alan Haselhurst, a former Conservative MP, the conference chairman, said it was a myth to assume that young people today had never had it so good. Neither national nor local governments had effectively provided for their needs.

The people are here, the experience is here, and the idealism is surely here", he said. "It ought to be possible to see emerging the first outline of a charter of youth affairs." The centre was vital to ensure that the next hundred years would not

contain the blemishes of the last. The conference opened with an audio-visual presentation: 100 Years of Youth on a giant television screen above the auditorium. It showed how young people had been exploited in two world wars and that governments in the 1950s spent only 16 shillings a head annually on the youth service.

Today Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will address the conference, and two former Prime Ministers, Mr Heath and Sir Harold Wilson, will contribute later in the week. There will also be "talk-ins" and workshop sessions on various subjects.

Business Diary, page 19

Ulster local politicians in Stormont talks

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

A new round of discussions between local politicians and Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, began at Stormont yesterday but officials were doubtful whether it would lead to any end to the political deadlock in the province.

During the afternoon Mr Mason met a delegation from the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, headed by Mr Gerard Fitt, the party's leader. Since the collapse of the Ulster Convention early last year the future of the SDLP has been increasingly called into question because of lack of funds and disagreement between its members over the need to press for a British withdrawal from Ulster.

Before the meeting Mr Fitt said: "We will urge Mr Mason to involve himself more in trying to get the parties together. In the absence of a political forum only the paramilitaries stand to gain."

Today Mr Mason will meet a delegation representing the Official Unionists, Northern Ireland's largest Protestant party. But it was considered unlikely that he would agree to any change in the British policy of refusing to launch new political initiatives.

A man whose body was found dumped in Belfast early yesterday was believed by detectives to have been the victim of a feud among extreme "loyalists". Mr James Moorhead, aged 30, who had been severely beaten around the head, was known to have been an officer in the Ulster Defence Association.

Toast to killing: A man who drank a toast to the death of a policeman soon after acting as look-out for the gunmen who shot him was jailed for life yesterday at Belfast City Commission (The Press Association reports).

Noel Gaynor, aged 22, of Prospect Way, in the Shankill area of Lurgan, co Armagh, was charged with the murder of Constable Robert Megaw, aged 29, on December 1, 1973, in Lurgan. Mr Gaynor changed his plea from not guilty to guilty after about two hours.

The court was told that Mr Gaynor stood on watch at a street corner. He saw soldiers he was to warn the gunmen by walking down the street and striking a match. Constable Megaw was killed when the gunmen opened fire on his Land-Rover. A little later Mr Gaynor went to a Lurgan bar and drank a toast with the others.

Local Government

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Ten thousand new teachers failed to find jobs

By Judith Judd, of The Times

Higher Education Supplement

Nearly 10,000 newly qualified teachers, almost 30 per cent of the total seeking jobs, were still unemployed at the beginning of October, according to a survey issued yesterday.

The figures were compiled by Mr E. G. Peirson, Principal of Worcester College of Higher Education, on the basis of information about 71 per cent of the highest 33 per cent of those teachers who had taken the three-year certificate.

Only 15 per cent of those taking jobs outside teaching were employed in posts related to their training. About 44 per cent took jobs in industry.

County Council calculated that it had inherited about 13,000 acres of mess left behind by worked-out collieries, abandoned mills and factories and redundant railway and canal networks. By far the biggest proportion took the form of "slag heaps" - a technically inaccurate description; slag comes from steelworks, spoil from collieries.

About 2,000 acres has been reclaimed so far, most of it turned into farm grazing land which is gradually growing in richness by the due processes of nature. Some, like the famous "Three Sisters" (alternatively "the Wigan Alps") site, are destined to become open spaces for enjoyment by the people of the area.

Others, like the "new" Greater Manchester and Lancashire counties for nearly a quarter of a century.

In the 1950s Lancashire

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In the 1950s Lancashire

Transforming Wigan's derelict land into green and pleasant acres

Regional report

John Chartres

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Siege-trial jury told how to make a bomb

Mr Donald Lidstone, an explosives expert, told Mr Justice

Cumley and the jury in the Balcombe Street siege trial at the Central Criminal Court yesterday how lethal bombs with the destructive force of 16 army hand grenades could be made.

Mr Lidstone, who has 39 years experience of dealing with explosives, entered the court carrying a brown plastic holdall which he placed beside him in the witness box before he began giving evidence about his involvement with 14 incidents, referred to by the court as the "phase two" bombings, from August to December, 1975.

All the bombs concerned were high-explosive time devices, he said. He took from the bag a mock-up bomb and told the jury how it was made.

"This is a conventional clock-operated bomb which would contain about 3lb of high explosives", he said. "You may think such a small device does not represent very much explosive power, but even a bomb as small as this would be equivalent to the explosive power of something like 16 army hand grenades all exploded together. It is a very powerful bomb."

He said that there was evidence linking 15 of the bomb incidents with one another and with bomb-making material found at the north London addresses in Milton Grove and Crouch Hill allegedly occupied by the four defendants.

"In my opinion all 15 bombing incidents are directly related", he said. "I would consider from the correspondence of design and material

that they were all likely to be the product of the same person or persons."

Mr Lidstone said that at the Crouch Hill address a quantity of high explosive was found. It was Everstock Fraxel, which was made in the Republic of Ireland and not available on the mainland of the United Kingdom. It was not imported officially. It was also the explosive found at incidents where the bombs failed to explode.

The Lockets restaurant attack had a heavy contamination of sawdust around the explosive, which failed to detonate. Some of the explosive found at the Crouch Hill address was also contaminated with sawdust, and at Milton Grove there were plastic wrappings with sawdust in them heavily contaminated with nitroglycerine, a constituent

part of the Fraxel explosives.

Mr Lidstone told the jury of finding American-made detonators that were not imported officially into the United Kingdom. He had encountered them only three times: once at Wilton Street, Mr Heath's home, and at the Milton Grove address used by two of the defendants. Detonators used only in the Irish Republic were found at the Locketts restaurant site and at Wilton Street.

Commenting on the batteries used, he said: "All sorts can be used for making bombs."

The defendants, Martin O'Connell, aged 25, Edward Butler, aged 28, Henry Duggan, aged 24, and Hugh Doherty, aged 26, refused to plead to 25 charges, including seven of murder, when the trial opened a week ago.

The trial continues today.

Prisoner had worker's rights, tribunal says

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds

A prisoner let out of jail to take a job under a prerelease scheme had the same rights as any other worker, an industrial tribunal at Leeds ruled yesterday.

Mr Terence Gallogly, aged 38, of Haxby, near York, who completed a four-year prison sentence, alleged unfair dismissal from Aronstead Ltd, of Batley, manufacturers of garden furniture.

Mr Gallogly, a spot welder at the company, was elected a shop steward.

Mr Alex Lyon, Labour MP for York said in evidence that Mr Gallogly told him that the prison authorities had said he would be returned to prison

from the company if he did not cease union activities. He later heard from Mr Gallogly's wife that he had been dismissed from his job and returned to prison.

Mr Lyon said he spoke to Mr Stanley Foreman, joint managing director of Aronstead, who said he had been told by the prison that Mr Gallogly was not entitled to hold union office.

Mr Lyon said he had been told by prison officials that Mr Foreman had been urging them to take Mr Gallogly away because of his union activities.

Mr Foreman told the tribunal that the company asked for Mr Gallogly to be recalled to prison because of threats made against him by friends of a man involved in a dispute.

The hearing was adjourned until February 17.

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The Areas for Expansion

HOME NEWS

Britain in Europe: Trade patterns
Commonwealth ousted
by EEC as
biggest customers

By Robert Berthoud

Britain's trade patterns have changed dramatically in the past 15 years. Whereas in 1960 the Commonwealth countries were collectively our biggest market and customers, their place has gradually been taken by our eight partners in the enlarged EEC.

Trade shares covering those 15 years show that the EEC and the Commonwealth have almost exactly exchanged roles. In 1960 the Commonwealth took 41.2 per cent of our exports, while the six plus Denmark and Ireland took 19.3 per cent of exports and provided 20.4 per cent of imports. "Now the situation is reversed, the EEC taking 36 per cent of exports and providing 37 per cent of imports, the Commonwealth (without South Africa) accounting for 13.3 per cent of our exports and 13.3 per cent of imports. The eight EEC countries overtook the Commonwealth as an export market in 1966, and as a source of imports in the following year, and have since then steadily increased their importance as our main trading partner.

There is now only one non-EEC country among—indeed, still at the head of—our top six export markets: the United States. In 1965 Australia, now in tenth place, was third, and West Germany was the only EEC country in the top six.

Britain's membership of the European Community has thus consolidated and, far from curtailing a steady trend, some doubts were aroused in 1975, when there was a fall in the EEC's share of United Kingdom exports. But last year that jumped from 32.2 per cent to 36 per cent, and the growth seems likely to continue.

At the same time there has been, as anti-Marketters continually point out, a dramatic increase in Britain's trade deficit with the EEC, since Britain joined the EEC. It rose from £185m in 1971 to £1,172m in 1973, the first year of membership, reached £2,386m in 1975, but fell to £2,222m last year (overseas trade basis).

To some extent that can be explained by special factors. The fall of the pound was the most marked against main EEC currencies like the Deutschmark and guilder, thus disproportionately increasing the cost of imports from those countries. The cost of oil imported through Rotterdam shot up in the wake of the energy crisis.

Then there was a substantial transfer of food purchases towards the EEC, mainly because of the pressures of the EEC's common agricultural policy (CAP), with its principle of Community preference, but partly because in 1973 and 1974 some food products were cheaper in the EEC than on world markets.

In 1972, 31 per cent of our total food imports came from the EEC. By last year that had jumped to 64 per cent, and accounted for 64 per cent of the total overall visible trade deficit with the EEC: coincidentally, almost exactly the same percentage as food imports represent in Britain's world trade deficit.

Finally, there was the book of 1972-73, coupled with inadequate British production, aggravated by strikes and the three-day week, which caused exports to be sucked in. Failure by British industry to satisfy British demand for its products continues to bedevil the balance of trade. There is

broad agreement that availability, coupled with quality, design and after-sales service, has become increasingly important in an ever more sophisticated market, as indeed West German success in selling against the D-mark barrier shows.

There is, by contrast, no general agreement on the significance of the progressive removal of tariffs which characterizes the EEC. The final cut on Britain's imports from her partners, and on their imports from us, came on July 1, when Britain will also finally adopt the EEC's common customs tariff on imports from non-member states that do not enjoy free trade arrangements. An additional plus-factor of membership is the gradual removal of technical or non-tariff barriers to trade, such as health or safety standards.

That uncertainty about the effect of belonging to a customs union in an era of inflation and sharp monetary fluctuations has made it harder to assess the impact so far of the EEC on, for example, our exports and imports of manufactured goods, where there is still a deficit.

For example, since Britain joined the EEC, the pound has depreciated 36.4 per cent against the Deutschmark. That might seem a far more formidable barrier than any tariff, yet United Kingdom imports from Germany have increased from £841m in 1972 to just under £2,000m in 1975.

The accompanying table of the share of the British car market demonstrates how hard it is to assess the impact of membership:

	EEC %	Japan %
1972	17.21	5.07
1973	17.81	5.86
1974	18.03	6.88
1975	20.35	9.04
1976	24.99	9.44

Japanese imports thus increased proportionately more than EEC imports, even though they faced an 11 per cent import duty compared with a shinking duty on EEC cars, the last 2 per cent of which is due for elimination on July 1.

But it is characteristic of the EEC as a fact of life that, whereas imports of Japanese cars are now likely to be held at roughly the present levels, those of EEC cars will suffer no such limitation, and have been increasing sharply. They include more and more "European" models from Ford, Chrysler and General Motors formerly made in Britain: in a genuine customs union the point of origin of decreasing importance, and components should flow with compensating freedom.

The existence of the EEC, and Britain's accession, have undoubtedly encouraged multinational companies to Europeanize production.

As the EEC becomes an increasingly homogeneous market, with no customs and fewer technical barriers to trade, it will inevitably become progressively more attractive to British manufacturers. It may be a far tougher and more competitive market than the Commonwealth used to be. But it is large, increasingly open, rich, sophisticated and near. It is logical that Britain should sell an increasing volume of manufactured goods to her EEC partners, and exchange for those increased imports of EEC food, and the signs are that British industry is beginning to accept the challenge.

To be continued

WEST EUROPE

Threat to
kidnap more
Spanish
politiciansFrom William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 31

The underground militant organization, Grapo, threatened today in a printed leaflet sent to the Madrid correspondent of *The Times* and some other foreign correspondents to kidnap more Spanish politicians.

The leaflet, assuming that it was legitimate, was sent by the First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group which has claimed responsibility for kidnapping two high-ranking politicians and killing three policemen. It said that unless the Government released 15 political activists, "we shall continue to capture regime personalities, for there is no other way of making them listen to reason".

Grapo said that the Government had launched a campaign of lies against the organization in order to confuse the public. It was not true, it had been suggested, that Grapo was "manipulated by the extreme right" or by the secret services of the superpowers. There has been speculation that the KGB or the CIA might be involved, so confusing is the issue.

The leaflet, delivered in the morning's post, said that the reforms of the Suarez Government were intended to "preserve the domination of the financial oligarchy, keep intact all the essential apparatus of the fascist power". The only difference now, said Grapo, was that groups which previously were persecuted were now able to take part in the change of regime. It was posted on Saturday night and the postmark was not legible.

Grapo implicitly criticized Senator Santiago Carrillo, the secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party, for going along with the reforms and said that he had even asked for an audience with King Juan Carlos.

The reforms could do nothing to improve the lot of the people, it was claimed, "paralyzing the struggle of the masses".

Referring to the Spanish extreme right, Grapo said that those people who for many years were the regime's ultras were now putting themselves forward as "democrats", without whom democracy could not be achieved. "They are the extreme right," it said, "the message said, naming Senator Suarez, the King and Senator Jose Maria de Arellano, the former Foreign Minister, among others.

"With the aim of distracting attention, the Government pretends that the only extreme rightists are the extreme left, the guerrillas of Christ the King or New Force. The Warriors of Christ the King and New Force are two right-wing extremist groups, some of whose members have been called in for questioning by the police in the wake of the violence.

Police have arrested more than 200 people, most of them members of extreme left organizations like the Maoist Workers' Party, although no official statement has been made. The extreme left complained today that the present situation is being used as an excuse to suppress them.

It was learnt today that Naval Captain Camilo Menedez Vives, who should have been shot for the Government at Saturday's funeral for the three shot policemen has been placed under house arrest.

EEC ministers'
London
talks end earlyBy Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

A fresh attempt will be made today to avert a national walk-out by EEC ministers on Thursday over the suspension of a Radio Sheffield producer.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) has called together the BBC, the National Union of Journalists and the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs.

An anti-strike committee of journalists is to meet Mr Kenneth Morgan, NUJ general secretary, who will take with him messages of support from colleagues in Stoke-on-Trent, Belfast, Manchester and Cardiff. A member said last night: "We are prepared to move our exchange as a last resort to show the strength of feeling against the militant minority. At least 100 London NUJ members are prepared to ignore the strike call."

The dispute is over the use of a greengrocer and a teacher to provide sports reports for Radio Sheffield.

A strike by NUJ members at Mercury House, a London publishing house, is about to enter its fourth week. The journalists want better benefits.

At Kettering, Northamptonshire, a newspaper's delegation has met the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph management over a nine-week journalists' strike.

Railman was
found drunk

Police officers answering a report that three bombs had exploded, found a drunken railman in charge of a London Underground station.

Stationed at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Peter Richard Court, aged 28, a station foreman, of Shepherd's Bush Road, London, was fined the maximum of £10 for being drunk.

Union chief hits
at politicians
over legislation

By Our Labour Staff

Mr John Boyd, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Shipbuilding yesterday said that neither devolution nor industrial democracy would improve industrial efficiency, increase productivity or bring greater security to working people.

Mr Boyd, who might emerge as one of the leading contenders to succeed Mr Hugh Scanlon as president of the union, said MPs should be directing all their thoughts and actions towards establishing Great Britain Ltd. They should be "inspiring and encouraging the nation to work together to get ourselves out of our economic difficulties, getting rid of unemployment and having every-one engaged in meaningful employment."

He accused politicians of bad timing over the devolution and industrial democracy issues. "The parliamentary debate on the former will create heat and division, and certainly its implementation will create more non-productive, but highly remunerative jobs in the duplicated administrative machinery which will follow, but not real wealth."

On the Bullock proposals for worker-participation in the board room, Mr Boyd said that workers on the factory floor had never really discussed industrial democracy although their views were far more important than those of academics or theoreticians. An immediate debate on industrial democracy might create division between union and management when they could least be afforded.

Mr Boyd's union, which has 1.4m members, disagrees with both the TUC and the Government on industrial democracy. It simply wants an expansion of industrial relations and collective bargaining in the private sector.

New move today
to avert staff
walk out at BBCBy Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

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Britain pays pig subsidy
in defiance of EEC

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Britain began making subsidy payments to pig farmers yesterday despite repeated warnings from Brussels that the British Government was in breach of EEC rules. The first payments of the temporary subsidy, worth £1m a week, are being made on pigs slaughtered yesterday.

The subsidy was announced less than a fortnight ago by Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, after months of protests from farmers and food processors about unfair advantages enjoyed by EEC exporters of pigmeat to Britain.

Mr Silkin acted to fend off loss of jobs in British pig-breeding and to stop an increase in slaughtering of breeding pigs. He consulted the Treasury in London before introducing the subsidy and told

the European Commission in Brussels that it was a temporary measure to support the claim for a two per cent rise in the real value of their wages.

The strike is the latest in a series of stoppages by French unions in protest at the Government's austerity measures, which would put wage rises to the increase in the cost of living.

Today's strike comes after the breakdown of talks between the union and the management after the Government's refusal to sanction a two per cent rise.

Union officials in Lille, north-east France, reported that only 116 miners out of a total of 7,660 had turned up for work in the area. Tomorrow, electricity and gas workers go on strike and on February 9 Paris public transport workers plan to stop work. Last week, the railways were hit by protest strikes.

Paris, Jan 31.—Coal miners in France began a 24-hour national strike today to support their claim for a two per cent rise in the real value of their wages.

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Miners join
wave of strikers
in France

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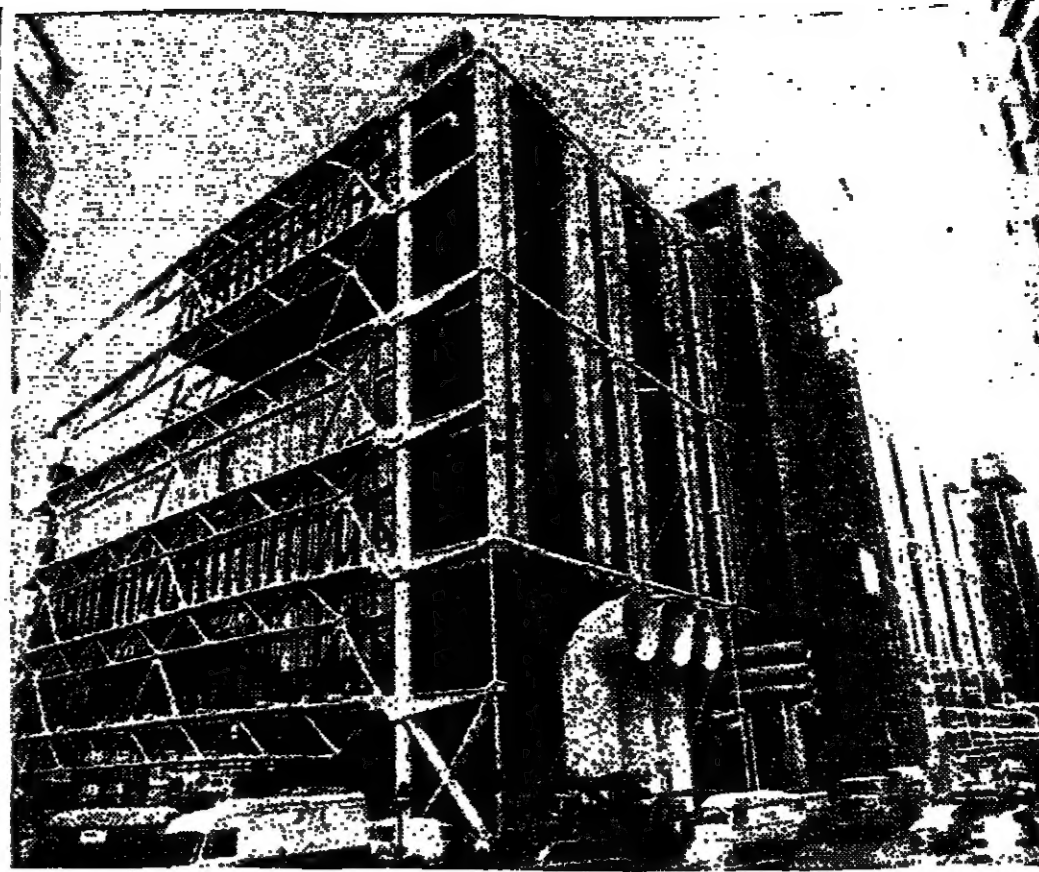
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The new centre: not so much a skyscraper, more an ocean liner

Biggest artistic powerhouse in the world is opened,
shocking the eyes of Paris and dazzling the mind
Pompidou's cultural colossusFrom Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 31

The National Centre for Art and Culture, known as the Pompidou Centre for short, was launched on its controversial canvas this evening by President Giscard d'Estaing.

The nautical simile is not inapt in the case of this extraordinary structure of metal and glass, supported by 150ft steel columns linked by a criss-cross of trusses, and decked on the outside with a profusion of tubes and pipes.

It looks like some sort of super-tanker anchored inconspicuously in the heart of Paris, half way between Les Halles and the Marais. "Our building," the architect, Hans Hollein, said, "is less in common with a skyscraper than a liner."

Because of its architecture, its scale, its cost, and its ambitions, the centre has been a subject of controversy long before its opening. It was originally conceived by Georges Pompidou, who had a predilection for contemporary art and deplored that Paris had no museum worthy of it, such as the Guggenheim in New York.

Then he thought of adding a vast modern library, art, and special facilities for music, the theatre, and the cinema. Seven years ago, the decision to create the centre was taken. The upshot is the largest artistic and cultural powerhouse in the world, in which all the arts and sciences of the twentieth century are brought together under one roof, with the intention of making them accessible to the wider public through an intensive programme of exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations, and artistic experimentation, under the guidance of an army of artists and technicians.

The two architects, Renzo Piano, an Italian, and Richard Rogers, an Englishman, deliberately designed something essentially functional. All the plumbing, cables, air conditioning and the escalators linking the five floors are in plastic tubes which have been banished to the outside of the building. Painted in bright colours, the tubes accentuate the functional character of the object was to provide on each floor an unbroken space the size of two football fields.

The vast floor space is broken up by means of mobile partitions into areas of different sizes, according to the nature of works exposed. One original feature of the museum is the great honesty of the centre: books, periodicals, catalogues of exhibitions, press cuttings, colour slides and film material, as well as individual

files on some 10,000 modern artists, will be available to the public.

Two shadows have been cast over the museum. The heirs of several artists, such as Rouault and Braque, have opposed the transfer of their works from the Palais de Tokyo, and some American artists have decided to withdraw their contributions in protest against the freeing of Abu Daoud, the Palestinian leader. But these difficulties are apparently about to be overcome.

Like the museum, the library is bound to be a success. More controversial are the other two departments. The Music and Acoustics Research Centre directed by Pierre Boulez, occupies 8,000 square metres of offices, studios, and laboratories under the vast

plaza between the centre and the old Gothic church of St. Merri, where Saint-Saens played the organ.

The object of the Ircam, as it is called, is to promote fundamental research and creation by means of the most advanced electronic equipment. It has a concert hall seating 400, with adjustable floor and ceiling to alter the acoustic effects.

Equally controversial is the Industrial Creation Centre set up 10 years ago and moved to the new building. It is intended to stimulate creation in architecture, town planning, design and the graphic arts, and to improve the aesthetic quality of manufactured goods.

It has often in the past been used as a platform for the demonstration and rejection of what some call the "dominant culture". One of its gadgets will be an X-ray machine which will enable pregnant women to see their child move on a screen.

The gamble of the centre is twofold. Will it succeed in giving back to Paris a leadership in contemporary art and creativity which it lost first to London, and then to New York? And will it really fulfil President Pompidou's wish for a great house of culture, where those who are not used to entering a museum, a theatre or a library, could do so without difficulty?

Lack of quorum cuts
short Oporto congressFrom Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 31

Portugal's governing Socialist Party was last night obliged to abandon for lack of a quorum a special national congress summoned to tighten discipline and revise party statutes.

The absence of sufficient delegates reflected the frustrations of a day of wrangles and procedural confusion which not even the last-minute intervention of Dr Soares, the Prime Minister and secretary general of the party, could overcome. Acrimonious debates had pitted his lieutenants on the party secretary against left-wingers led by Senator Antonio Lopes Cardoso, the former Agriculture Minister, who staged a comeback at this one-day Oporto congress.

Yesterday proved a bad day for Dr Soares. The communists signalled with the launching of a Portuguese General Confederation of Labour that they control the big battalions of organized workers and Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro, the Socialist Party leader, judged the momentum for his sharp attack yet on the minority Government. The Socialists have only 105 of the 263 seats in Parliament.

At a final congress of his party just outside Oporto, Dr Sa Carneiro told the Portuguese people that they "are paying very dearly for the permanent subterfuges adopted to permit a Government lacking majority backing to continue."

After criticizing the handling of the economic crisis, including foreign loans used merely to cover running deficiencies and restricting private enterprise, Dr Sa Carneiro proposed that the Socialists work out an agreement for a government "with a democratic majority". He did not specify whether he envisaged a coalition or not.

Agreement "will not be but it is imperative".

The basic issue at the congress was party discipline, especially co-ordinating party line in public. Dr Sa Carneiro said today that the party leadership appeared its way on the issue. It attempted to ram through new statutes in the 40 minutes of the 85 approved by the party's leader in Paris.

In a confused situation, party leadership appeared its way on the issue. It attempted to ram through new statutes in the 40 minutes of the 85 approved by the party's leader in Paris.

Dr Soares raised the issue of a Chilean-style coup in Portugal that the party did not put above all other considerations. But he was overruled by the tough line taken a November's party over the issue of policy differences.

November, the left mustered only 25 per cent of the vote. Worries about handling policy differences, democratic party, coup last week's expulsion of prominent members (two deputies, all but Trotskyite infiltration) any problem.

The party leaders down four minutes a delegate in the opening provoking protests. It was suggested that of the remaining should go to the national council.

Communist leader wins
support for austerityFrom Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 31

The week that should bring final approval of the Government's full austerity programme began today amid a general feeling that Senator Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, had convinced the Milan workers of the merits of such a policy.

He addressed some 2,000 Communist representatives yesterday from the factories of Lombardy, putting his case for sacrifices today as a step towards a new justice. His speech was frequently interrupted by applause and concluded with cries of "Enrico! Enrico!" from workers thought to have been wary of the party's support for a genuine austerity programme.

It was known that Senator Berlinguer placed a great deal of importance on his reception in Milan. He can hardly have foreseen the amazingly favourable reporting of his performance in the non-Communist press.

Berlinguer spoke for a little less than an hour, according to the *Corriere della Sera*. "This man who is not born an orator, displayed a Ciceroian fluency, combined with the intensity of a Demosthenes, counterpointed continuously with dramatic overtones and ironic shafts." Clearly, on this form, even if he had been reading the telephone directory, Senator Berlinguer would have had the audience on his side. In fact, his subject matter may well be vital.

The theatre was full an hour before he spoke. He was chosen both for his friendly towards Christians and for his government he supported parliamentary abstention to provide a new basic law, a new constitution.

He argued that the be no going back. The Communist Party must advance from indirect of a minority Government membership of a group of national unity. That had to be reinforced with its most urgent. Inflation, he said, was not facing the He put his listeners against the "chaotic expansion of the unions" which were robbing the nation of its wealth. He defended the struggle against excessive demands against excessive demands against excessive demands.

He praised the recent agreement between the C. of Industry and the by which the unions gave up something small, to bring down the cost of living. He said that the representatives of the workers given proof of maturity and responsibility.

An essential ability to end the crisis, he said, was the ability to stand against the Communist Party and which lately have been going ahead of it.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Government was strongly in favour of economic aid and less conviction some of his colleagues overriding political and community entry.

At today's brief meeting Sir Donald led EEC, the Greeks said paper stating their acceptance of the provisions of the agreement, full from the outset. Important exceptions dairy and meat sectors also wanted compensation for cotton and for industrial goods.

The Greeks wanted to be able to export sensitive products later parts than the five-year transitional allowed to new entrants. Turning to the EEC's commitments, the Greeks could only see the implications of the arrangements munity had concluded.

It is not clear whether the slow pace of the negotiations is waning enthusiasm for their membership among the Nine. It is equally true that the Athens Government itself has been hampered by divisions of opinion over what negotiating tactics to pursue.

Earlier this month, Mr Nikolaos Kyriazidis was replaced at the head of the Greek team by Mr Byron Theodoropoulos, General Secretary at the

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OVERSEAS

Japanese dampen US hopes of joint anti-recession moves

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Jan 31

Dampening Washington's hopes that advanced industrialized nations will take urgent steps to stimulate the world's economy, Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, warned Mr Walter Mondale, the American Vice-President, in Tokyo today that Japan's fiscal plans for recovery might be thwarted because the ruling party no longer controls the powerful parliamentary budgetary committee.

The warning apparently disappointed Mr Mondale, who arrived in Tokyo from Europe yesterday with a message that President Carter "highly appreciates" Japan's new draft budget which is designed to provide the country with the highest growth rate among advanced industrialized nations this year.

However, the Japanese Prime Minister warned Mr Mondale that, after last month's elections, the Opposition can water down the Government's economic programmes.

Mr Fukuda's somewhat pessimistic analysis of the progress of Japan's new steps to stimulate economic growth was conveyed to Mr Mondale when they met at the Prime Ministers' official residence this afternoon for an initial round of talks. They will meet again tomorrow and today they agreed that Mr Fukuda will visit the United States to see Mr Carter on March 21.

Reiterating President Carter's creed that the United States, Western Europe and Japan should take decisive steps to pull the world out of its economic recession, Mr Mon-

dale told Mr Fukuda that he hopes Japan will achieve its target of a growth rate of 6.7 per cent during the next fiscal year.

Under the theories which have governed Japan's precise economic projections in the past, Mr Fukuda's draft budget provides for a 21 per cent increase in spending on public works as the main stimulus for growth—should achieve the set target.

However, as Mr Fukuda apparently explained to Mr Mondale today, the political realities in the Liberal Democratic Party now controls a slim majority in the Lower House of Parliament but it has lost effective control over the House's budgetary committee.

The five main opposition parties, which advocate tax cuts of about £2,000m, against the Government's proposed £840m, have the power to forestall the draft budget.

At the conclusion of this afternoon's meeting, Mr Mondale said: "We discussed the internal economic policies of both countries with the aim of stimulating the economic growth. We also dealt with the timing, location and agenda of the proposed summit of advanced nations, the multi-lateral trade negotiation talks and the importance of increasing the pace of those talks, learning towards a new GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) agreement."

At their meeting tomorrow the two leaders will review political topics, including President Carter's plan to withdraw American troops from South Korea.

Cold kills 54 in US and lays off 1.5m workers

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 31

The death toll has risen to at least 54 as bitterly cold weather continues over most of the eastern United States. More than 1,500,000 people are estimated to have been laid off work in attempts to conserve dwindling supplies of natural gas, and thousands of offices, factories and schools have been closed.

Buffalo, in western New York state, is the area that has been hardest hit, as a result of the blizzard which struck it last Friday night. Many of its streets have been blocked by huge snowdrifts, with cars buried inside them, and all but emergency travel has been banned as efforts continue to clear them.

Many of the deaths of the past few days have been the result of people being caught in stalled cars or else suffering from exposure while trying to reach safety. In Buffalo, seven bodies have been found in cars, and officials said they were afraid they would find more.

As a result of the emergency measures taken to save gas, the immediate threat was thought by federal officials to be over. Plans for cutting off supplies to people's homes were shelved. Millions of adults and children were estimated to be staying at home as a result of the closing down of schools and businesses.

In Washington, Congress met today to consider the emergency legislation proposed by President Carter, designed to ensure that natural gas is distributed to the areas that need it most.

Bidding a temporary farewell to the man in my life, I said I was off to write about some sentimentalities for St Valentine's Day. Astonishingly, unpredictably, almost with the interest of one who really wanted to know, he asked when it was. I vouchsafed February 14 but queried his interest since he has always been solely on the receiving end. "How do you know I've never sent you one?" he asked, "since Valentine cards and gifts are always anonymous. I might have sent you one."

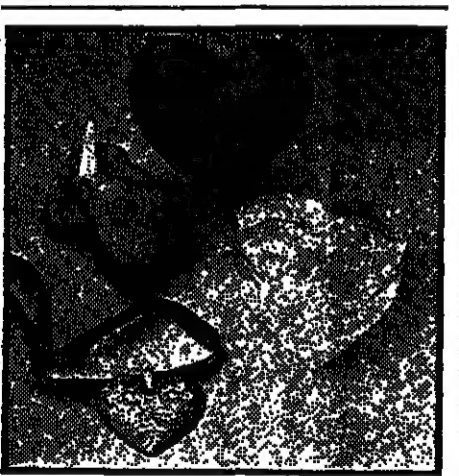
He had me worried—there had been times of anonymous cards which I had never, no never, attributed to him since his way of ensuring that I get what I like is to ask me to buy it for him to give to me. So I mattered something about anonymity being out of fashion only to be assured that he liked the custom. Which leaves me wondering whether, if I do get an anonymous Valentine this year, I should thank him for it or not, although I do believe he probably will not send one after all.

There are so many legends about how this day got into the greetings card calendar. The most likely is that the Romans did not want to give up their February fertility revels, dancing in the streets in hectic worship of lusty, un-sentimental gods and goddesses. When Christianity took over in Rome, nobody stopped the feasts, but merely adopted as an excuse the man who had been a martyr to Christianity around 207 AD and who is supposed to have died on February 14. The anonymity may derive from the fact that many danced in masks and indulged in brief, festive love with other masked unknowns. The Victorians lavished velvet, silk, lace, fragrance and flowers on coy, gaudy but romantic cards, swearing purple passion that was respectable as long as the sender never declared himself—ladies could even express themselves under the security of anonymity. Personally, I do not like not knowing from whom I get, and I like to give something that is so special between us that it could almost only be from me.

At Spinks, the mecca of expensive taste and antique collectors, I found sentimental cufflinks—would you have believed cufflinks at Spinks? They are miniature millionaires' paperweights, colourful and enchanting, a conversation piece every time on her or his shirts, with 9-carat gold links. They cost £22 (Spinks will post anywhere). Personal shoppers will inevitably fall in love with full-size paperweights but, since I plan to write in some detail on them in a few weeks, I shall leave the discovery of these for the time being—prices are anything from £5 for good, new ones to £5,000 for antiques and all chosen by the expert on paperweights, Spink and Son is at King Street, St James's, London, SW1 (telephone 01-930 7688, 24-hour service).

At Halcyn Days, 14 Brook Street, off London's Hanover Square (or by post)

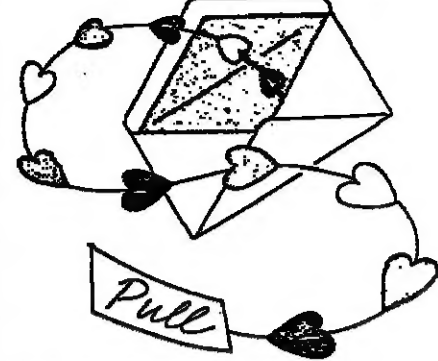
The fierce little cat with the pointed ears is a pendant for tigerish hims or hers. Its eyes are navette diamonds weighing a combined 2.40 carats set in oxidized white and yellow gold to simulate slightly evil cat colours. The chubbier, more amiable cat has pear-shaped diamonds for eyes and its sights are 4.71 carats, set in oxidized white gold to give a darkish grey tint and to set off the cat's nose which imparts a hint of humour to the catness. Both are on gold chains and you will need rather more than your loose change since they cost, respectively, £7,300 and £35,000. Postage is free. A case of buying your love outright? Available from Garrard & Co, 112 Regent Street, London W1A 2JJ (01-734 7020).



A quarter from Liberty where they are making rather a specialty of Valentine's Day with ivory hearts, brooch pendants with an arrow and a variety of heart-shaped lockets. The red heart of translucent glycerine soap is fragrant and original, packaged in a masterfully illustrated, old-fashioned box that says "More than yesterday, less than tomorrow" in French and in English. The perfume is tea rose and a pair of pigeons nestle in a garland of flowers and lace. One tablet costs 75p, a box of five really lathers up your love at £3.95 (postage on the larger boxes is 45p but only 30p on the single tablet). The candle is a little red heart in a little red heart-shaped tin, sweetly amusing at 55p and just right for diner à deux. The solid glass heart from Darlington has a bubbly look and I think this is very much a best buy at 95p. The locket, I liked best of many lockets is a royal blue heart with a white, sketched posy and a blue velvet ribbon to tie it at the neck (£4.50). Add 30p postage for all but the heavier soaps, and send orders to Liberty and Co, Regent Street, London W1R 6AH.

At Jacksons of Piccadilly and Sloane Street in London are lots of chocolate hearts, heart-shaped boxes of chocolates in plastic with a golden d'oyley at £1.90 or in red, velvety flock with 136 of chocolates at £5.20. There are also a couple of very original hearts. One is a dainty papier maché box with little birds on it, nice for table top or dressing table and costing £3.10 (20p postage). The other is a brass heart pendant, highish for a pendant and on a leather cord so that it is very much his or hers. The price is £3.80, postage is 55p.

Shopping/Sheila Black



Make your own Valentine card this year. Buy red paper, preferably adhesive-backed but that is normally only easy from specialist paper shops, handicraft or children's school-type shops. You can manage with glue and plain red paper. Cut out the hearts and never mind if they are a trifle irregular because these are from you, made by you and not reproduced on machines for anyone and everyone. Lay a line of hearts on the table, spaced about an inch apart and lay coloured yarn or cotton along the centre of the hearts. Stick another heart firmly on to each to enclose the yarn and make sure the glue is set before picking up the line of hearts. Any he or she must love to get this one and it is ideal for the anonymous card.

Illustrations by Lyn Gray
Photographs by Trevor Sutton

are the familiar but adorable little enamel boxes of which production ceases on February 28 (£14.50 each). Another Valentine enamel box by Crummes join the 1977 scene—raised gold on white for the lid and a choice of cobalt blue, heliotrope, pink or green for the base—£15.77 at Harrods. The Goodie, Forum and Mason, Zelli and Algernon Asprey as well as similar stockists out of London. Crummes is at 2 Cromer Road, Poole, Dorset.

Publicize your love to hundreds of thousands of people by declaring it in the personal columns of *The Times*. Your loved one gets a little red-bound book of love poems by the famous and less famous, pocket or handbag size at seven by five inches, and a card to trailer the forthcoming *Times* message. The cost is £5.50 for three lines (25 characters a line including spaces between the love words) plus £2 per extra line. Your order and cheque for love lines must be in by February 9 and, since I have not told them I have fallen in love with this idea enough to pass it on I must go and alert them to expect you all since it would thrill so

many to see their names in print as loved ones. All too many, I am sure, must cloak their love in secrecy, but cryptic nicknames will do that romantically and *The Times* keeps all confidences. Mark orders for the ASA Department, 4th Floor, here at *The Times*.

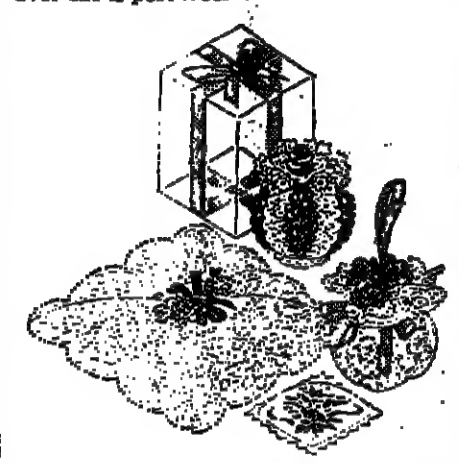
When I think of sentiment, gratitude, love or just luxury I think of Mary Chess, for their gifts are charming and my major complaint is that they tempt me to spoil myself as well as others for whom I seek gifts. The large 6in square sachet, lacrimated, is perfumed with Tapestry to last for ages and ages amid the lingerie or sweaters—the latter respond wonderfully to impregnation by fragrance. In pale, pale, palest pink so as to be almost beige, this costs £2.15.

The little 2½in square sachets are white, satiny, and with little posy designs. Three—one box at £1.85 (choose from Tapestry, White Lilac or Gardenia fragrances).

The round-shaped pot pourri bundle is covered with beige-pink lace, tied at the top with tiny flowers and it is richly floral, lovely to hold and to smell, to bring a country garden into the bedroom—£2.35. Then the other round package is an old-fashioned pomander, made to an old recipe. The bitter orange has been stuck with cloves by hand and the whole tied with golden meshed ribbon. Hang this in the wardrobe to remember the giver every time the warm perfume strikes you—it is £2.25.

A round, gold-coloured locket filled with solid perfume (the famous Tapestry) is not shown but is a truly romantic gift at £3.40, presented in the golden Mary Chess box. All the packaging is perfect, either in chased gold or card or paper or in soft plastic boxes (one shown here) tied with brown ribbon and crested with the royal warrants. Were are stockists nationwide so, for your local, or for the colour-leaflet for mail order shopping, write to Mary Chess at their own inviting little boutique at 7 Shepherd Market, Mayfair, London W1 (629 5152). Everything can be gift-wrapped free. If you want this, make sure to ask them to remove prices if you do not plan to open up before giving.

For postage and insurance, add 35p for orders up to the value of £4; 55p from £4 to £9; £1 up to £14; £1.45 up to £20. Over £20 is post free.



Pressure for changed US attitude to Latin America

Dialogue with Cuba and new canal treaty with Panama sought

From Peter Strafford
New York, Jan 31

Americans are trying to work out a new approach to the perpetual and tangled problem of their relations with Latin America. An influential group, sponsored by the Centre for Inter-American Relations in New York, has just published a series of recommendations for the Carter Administration to consider.

Presenting the report, Mr Sol Linowitz, a former American representative at the Organization of American States (OAS), said he hoped the Administration would make a new effort. Past administrations had caused resentment in Latin America because they had produced some fine slogans, but not gone much beyond them.

He thought, however, that President Carter had a personal interest in Latin America.

One of the first things to be done, Mr Linowitz said, was to negotiate a new canal treaty with Panama. This is an issue which arouses strong feelings in the United States; but the report emphasizes that it is also a dangerous one at the international level, and one on which the United States is isolated from its closest allies. The report states: "The United States does not need perpetual control of the canal nor exclusive jurisdiction over

the canal zone to protect its legitimate interest in the canal. Indeed, the threat to maintaining an open canal is likely to come from nationalist Panamanian resentment.

"Panama and the United States share an essential interest in keeping the canal open, secure, and efficient. The best protection of our interests in Panama is not outmoded treaty language, but rather Panama's own vital interest in preserving its greatest national resource."

Another emotional issue is that of human rights and the growing trend in Latin America for repressive governments. The report recommends that the United States should make clear it will not grant military aid or sell military or police equipment to countries found to violate human rights.

It should also try to avoid supporting with other forms of aid regimes which systematically and grossly violate human rights.

In general, the report argues, Americans should give up the notion that Latin America should be handled in terms of "exceptional relations" or a "special relationship". Latin America should be seen in terms of relations with the Third World as a whole.

The United States should make a public pledge of its respect for the sovereignty of each country in the continent.

It should commit itself not to undertake unilateral military intervention or covert intervention in their internal affairs.

New efforts should be made to find a way of eventually normalizing relations with Cuba. The report suggests that the United States should undertake to prevent terrorist actions against Cuba, and see whether Cuba was prepared to reciprocate.

Washington should try to get assurances from Cuba that it would release certain Americans held as political prisoners, withdraw its troops from Angola and undertake not to intervene elsewhere, and give up its interference in Puerto Rican affairs.

Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, in a written statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has in fact called for the release of both Cuban and American political prisoners still held in Cuba. He said such a move would be a serious indication that Cuba was interested in a dialogue with the United States.

The report emphasizes that there is no imminent threat to American security from Latin America, and that there is no need for the sense of urgency shown by President Kennedy in 1961. But they see "latent opportunities" and hope that advantage will be taken of these.

Candidates in Pakistan tell of intimidation

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Jan 31

The unopposed election of candidates from the ruling People's Party was challenged before the Election Commission in Rawalpindi today at a general election to the 200 National Assembly and 460 Provincial Assembly seats is due in March. About 150 aggrieved would-be candidates or their legal representatives crowded the Election Commission hall with petitions claiming that at nomination time they had either been forcibly restrained, kidnapped or intimidated to prevent the filing of their nomination papers.

Among candidates unofficially declared re-elected without contest are Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, and all four Chief Ministers of the provinces of Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan and the North West Frontier. They would-be candidates sought protection against the police or local authorities. Complaints have until Saturday next to lodge evidence in support of their allegations.

Sri Lanka ends censorship of the press

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, Jan 31

The Sri Lanka Government today lifted press censorship which was introduced on January 10 during a wave of strikes. The lifting of censorship has started speculation that Parliament may be dissolved shortly, before its term ends on May 22.

There is also considerable speculation about whether the six MPs of the pro-Moscow Communist Party will continue to support the coalition Government. Trade unions controlled by the party joined opposition parties in the strikes and Mr Keeneman, the Communist Minister of Housing, has stayed away from Cabinet meetings and his ministry office in recent weeks.

Indonesia accused of mass murders in East Timor

By David Watts

Indonesian atrocities against the population of East Timor during the invasion of December 1975, while the May 1st massacre "look like a gentlemen's picnic", according to an Australian diplomat who has just completed a lengthy series of interviews with refugees from the former Portuguese colonial territory in Lisbon.

Mr James Dunn, one of Canberra's leading experts on Indonesia, has interviewed 20 refugees individually and several named who preferred to talk to him in groups.

The picture he has built up is one of cold-blooded mass executions, some of them with racial undertones, torture, looting and rape. He also established that the Indonesian treatment of United Nations investigation teams sent to the area.

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor on December 1, 1975, after proclaiming publicly that they had no intention in annexing the area. The annexation decision was taken, according to Mr Dunn, by the Indonesian National Security Council during the second half of 1974. He named the architect of the campaign as General Ali Murtopo.

One of the first of many instances of deliberate murder of Chinese civilians came as the Indonesian forces occupied Dili, the capital. A group of about nine Chinese, dressed in their best suits, came out to greet the invaders, but they were machine-gunned to death as they walked towards the troops.

some cases Timorese, acting as bearers or drivers for Indonesian officers, witnessed mass killings, including one at late June of last year, in which an estimated 2,000 refugees were shot down.

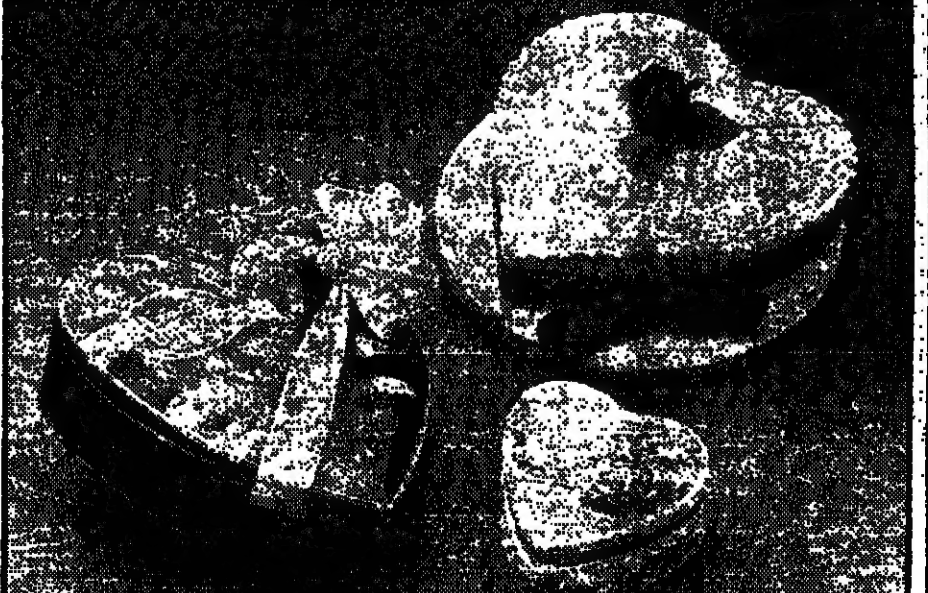
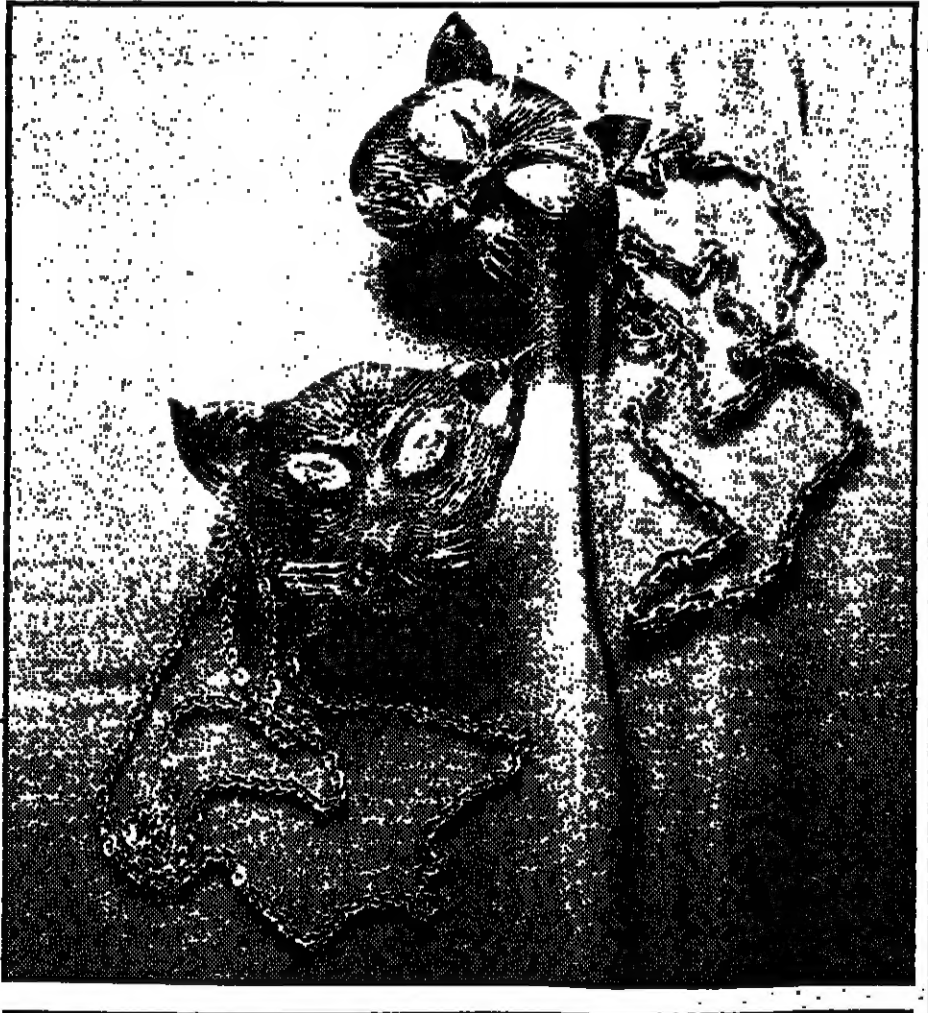
But the best-documented mass killing occurred the day after the occupation of Dili, when an Indonesian helicopter was shot down, probably by a Fretilin sniper, near the shop of a Chinese called Toko Lai. Indonesian troops immediately rounded up a group of civilians in the area and marched them down to the wharf.

They were lined up and shot, according to the brother of one of the victims, while a second group was made to call out the rally by the captain of the Indonesian unit as each counting stopped. Next day the body fell into the harbour. When the tally reached 59 the bodies were washed ashore close to the local bishop's house.

Mr Dunn, who has been carrying out his investigation on behalf of a number of Australian church and non-governmental aid agencies, was interviewed by *The Times* as he passed through London on his way back home.

One witness gave the diplomat further evidence of the murder of five journalists, two of them British-born, the day after the invasion in the town of Balibo. The two British passport-holders who died were Mr Brian Peters, originally from Bristol, and Mr Malcolm Rennie, from the Glasgow area. Both worked for Channel Nine television in Sydney. All five were shot down as they held up their hands and shouted: "Australian, Australian" at the advancing troops.

A Timorese bearer said that after the shooting he noticed that one of the men was not dead. He was lying on his side speaking into a tape-recorder. The bearer went over to switch on the tape-recorder, for a reason he does not now recall but the Indonesian soldiers waved him away and shot dead the journalist.



At Harrods the way to a Valentine's heart is through the stomach with a heart-shaped cake of whiter-than-white fondant icing decorated with one deep red marzipan rose. Deliciously light and fluffy vanilla sponge is layered with pale, milk chocolate butter cream and marzipan. An 8in heart is £5.50 and a 6in is £2.50. This is strictly for personal shoppers only, I am afraid, but it can give you ideas to make your own heart cakes. The chocolate hearts can be posted—a larger size containing 140 is £4.55 (but costs an astronomical £1.13 to post) and the smaller size (10in) is £1.95 (49p postage). The china heart from Aynsley might contain some trinket or love note but is pretty on its own and far from expensive at £4.50 (postage £1.52).

Deeply grateful though they are, the Cheshire Homes cannot cope with any more Christmas cards this year. They also apologise for not being able to acknowledge your parcels individually and asked me to thank you all here, very much indeed.

Prices of postage and packing for Mizzen's quail and smoked salmon, mentioned on this page on January 18, for confused—dozen quail need postage extra of £1.09 and the smoked salmon costs 52p per lb.

ENTERTAINMENT

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN, 040 1066. (On charge—see below, p. 62)
THE ROYAL BALLET
Tonight, 7.30. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 79

SPORT

Football

Revie says he has not closed the door on experimentation

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

Only two uncapped players, Francis, of Birmingham City, and Talbot, of Ipswich Town, are included in the party of 23. Don Revie has chosen for England's match against the Netherlands at Wembley on Wednesday week. The obvious conclusion is that in this game against the World Cup runners-up of 1974 and in the nine that follow before England's critical World Cup meeting with Italy next November, Mr Revie will consolidate known strengths rather than experiment.

Mr Revie said yesterday that this conclusion is correct, but added that although he had 90 per cent of his World Cup squad settled in his own mind, he had not "closed the door". Remembering that England's failure to score sufficient goals at Wembley had often furnished otherwise promising players with an opportunity, he added: "Several strikers are knocking on the door: people like Malcolm Macdonald, Paul Mariner and Trevor Whyte."

The party has few surprising omissions, although five of the original party for the match with Italy in Rome last November are not considered. Madley, one of Mr Revie's favourite men for all seasons, said he was surprised to be left out, but the manager was probably looking ahead to the World Cup match against Luxembourg in March at about the time Madley has his own testimonial. George, of Derby County, has still to regain favour after a poor first appearance against the Republic of Ireland. The others are Taylor, Lill and Towers.

All of those chosen for the match with Italy are included in the party and it would be no surprise if Mr Revie made no more than one or two changes. "I am friendly," he said, "but it is important for prestige and confidence, Francis, who has been named twice in the last two years, has a good chance of winning his first cap. In fact, Mr Revie hinted that this talented 22-year-old would be in the team when he said he hoped that this time Francis would be available. Mr Revie said: "I am keeping my fingers crossed that he will not be injured or go sick before the game. He has been most unlucky in this respect. He is a very young man. I once offered £250,000 for him when I was in charge at Leeds and at the time it would have been an English record transfer fee. He has tremendous pace and good ball control and I particularly like his ability to play with his back to the opposition. It is not easy turning when you are being marked tight."

The Liverpool captain, Hughes, who replaced Madley in the party for the game against Italy and, surprisingly, went on to gain a place in the team, remains, but probably not because of his international career seemed to be at an end after the 1975 home international championship, but because he felt that Hughes could meet a specific challenge.

Within the party chosen for England's first international match of this most important year is the basis of an adequate if not exceptional team. The most important of these are five players, including the home international championship, and that should have been enough if progress over the last two years had been more successful.

In 21 matches since he took over as manager, Mr Revie has used 65 players and still not found a satisfactory combination or style of play. Injuries, particularly the loss of the captain, Gerry Francis, because the next meeting with Italy is still 10 months ahead it would be wrong to think that there is time to experiment. Mr Revie said after seeing Italy beat Belgium last week that he wanted England to master the man-to-man marking system which he said all leading European countries used. "The game against Holland is a vital part of our season and it is important that we do well against a world class side.

After the Netherlands, the next opponents will be Luxembourg at Wembley on March 30; this is a World Cup match that England must win by a large score. Poor performances against Finland and the Republic of Ireland earlier in the season again emphasized England's inability to do this at Wembley, so the gaining of confidence against the Netherlands is a vital part of our season and it is important that we do well against a world class side.

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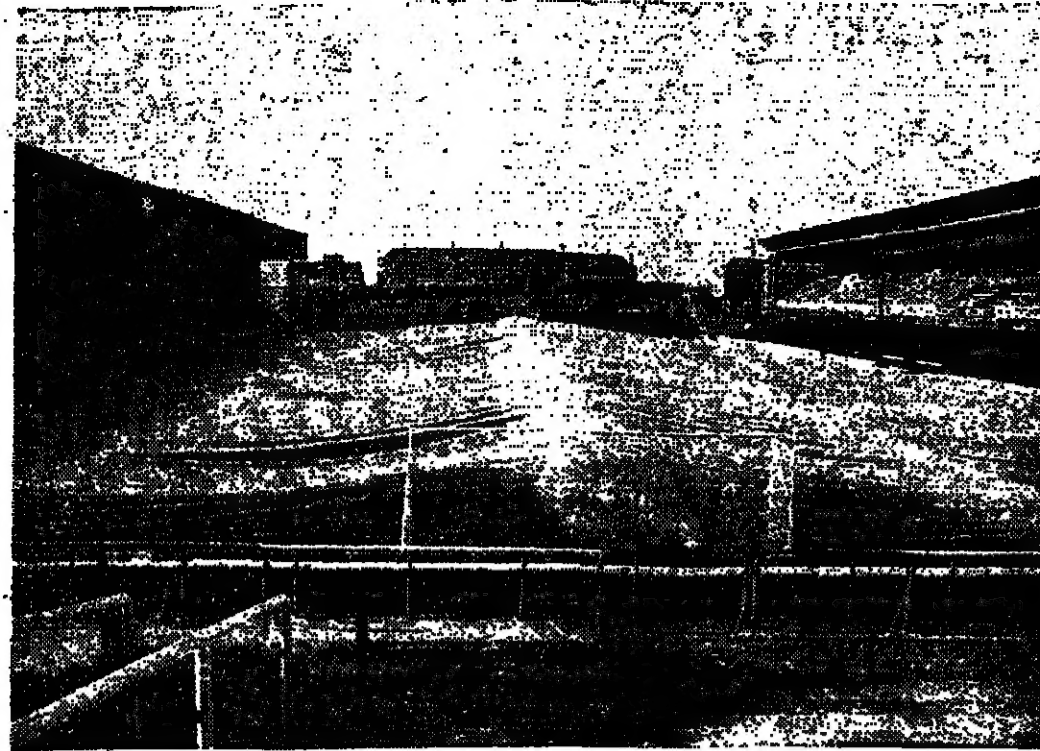
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When the balloon goes up the trouble is over: Queen's Park Rangers' £12,000 warm air scheme to beat the frost has proved so successful that they are confident that the twice-postponed League Cup semi-final first leg will be played at Loftus Road tonight.

One target that seems likely to remain in Liverpool's sights

By Norman Fox

Liverpool, still pointing at three targets, were not unduly disturbed by yesterday's FA Cup fifth round draw. For the third time this season they received a home tie, this time against Oldham Athletic on February 26, and they have yet to meet a team from the first division. If their European Cup and championship journeys were similarly paved they would be justified in hoping for the incredible treble.

The draw brought only two all first division ties—those between Leeds United and Manchester City and Middlesbrough and Arsenal—and seemed unimpressive after the excitement of Saturday's first round. The draw was a little disappointing at having to go to Leeds but added: "We must feel quietly confident after winning at West Bromwich and Newcastle. Our best performance of the season was our 2-0 win at Leeds on Boxing Day."

London's only survivors, Arsenal, have probably the most threatening away tie of all against Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough's league form is formidable and, though they have gained the reputation of being unattractive, they have the ability to reach Wembley. Stuart Roam, their captain, said: "Arsenal will be tough opposition. I have lost to them at home but I believe ground advantage will give us the edge."

Ipswich Town, if they beat Wolverhampton Wanderers in the replay today, and Aston Villa are both favoured with home matches against the third division opposition of Chester and Port Vale respectively.

Aston Villa's manager, Roger, Ron Saunders, recalled that several teams from lower divisions had excelled at Villa Park but he still thought it was a good draw. Colchester United's incentive to beat Derby County in their replay at the Baseball Ground on Wednesday is a home tie with Blackburn, though they have gained the reputation of being unattractive, they have the ability to reach Wembley.

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delays it could still be an outstanding tie between two teams completely committed to success. Villa, with three avenues into Europe still open for next season, hope to be at full strength with Cropley having recovered from a hamstring strain.

Although Villa's forwards, spearheaded by Gray, have received much publicity this season it will have not escaped the notice of the Rangers manager, Dave Sexton, that the Villa defence have not conceded a goal in over five hours of football. So Rangers know they will have to be at their very best to get the two goal lead they need for the second leg in a fortnight. For Villa are as near invincible at home as they can be.

Which team gets to Wembley could well be decided by the duel between Rangers' vastly experienced centre back, Malcolm Macdonald, and Villa's double spearhead of Gray (21) and his lively assistant, Dennis (19).

Gray, who has a transfer request earned down earlier this month, makes way for the winger Thomas, who has now completely recovered from a fractured cheekbone. The England full back, Clement, is still out of action with a back strain and Shanks will continue to deputize.

The pitch, which has twice caused the game to be postponed under its protective tent and to the relief of both clubs, the Football League and the England manager, Don Revie, the match looks certain to go on.

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Athletics

Faulty communications system

By Cliff Temple

Athletics Correspondent

We are in the earliest stages of a build-up to the 1980 Moscow Olympics, and already we appear to have faulty communications systems. On Saturday I sat alongside Sebastian Coe after he had convincingly won the AAA national indoor 800 metres title at Coxford and heard him explain in detail why he would not be available to run for Britain in the indoor international matches in Italy and Spain next week. This was because he could not find time for his economics studies at Loughborough College. Yesterday the teams for these matches were announced. Sebastian Coe was named for the 800 metres in Genoa on February 9 and the 1,500 metres in San Sebastian on February 12.

At the University of Edinburgh, the winner of the 60 metres title, and with the look of a man about to lead a resurgence of Scottish athletics, he did not want to run in the international indoor matches. He is named for the 60 metres and the 4x200 metres relay in both Italy and Spain.

Well's coach, Wilson Young, said yesterday: "Alan only received indoor times of times to give himself a brief break from training. But there is no point in running any international matches if he is not fit to compete. It is nice to be selected, but there is too much at stake later on. It is going to be a long, hard summer."

The British Board of Selectors were, presumably, not aware of either man's intentions on Saturday night when they picked their teams.

teams. And that is the most worrying aspect. Whether the mountain should theoretically go to Mohammed, or vice versa, is arguable. But the fact remains that all concerned—athletes, personal coaches, national coaches, and officials—were under the same roof in the same RAF hangar on Saturday, and yet somehow the information did not apparently flow in the right direction.

One man who did make his position clear to the selectors on Saturday was Ray Stedley, winner of the 3,000 metres title. He was willing to take part in all four planned international matches in February, but did not want to run a strength-sapping 3,000 metres in all of them, especially as he hopes to challenge some of the European 3,000 metres title in March. So he

wanted to intersperse the 1,500 metres with the 3,000 metres distance at which he feels he could also have won on Saturday.

The highest standard of the teams is that of Cape and Mike Welch in the 1,500 metres. Both men have set the European champion qualifying standard several times on the right course to the European indoor title, declaration of full support for the international season's least bring a sight of relief board members.

But perhaps the most interesting selection is not that of an athlete, but of an official. Davies, the former Olympic, and especially as he hopes to challenge some of the European 3,000 metres title in March. So he

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1. Senior Lecturer in the field of (a) Comparative Politics and Public Administration, (b) Quantitative Political Science, (c) Development Studies, (d) Social Studies, (e) Economics, (f) Education, (g) Law, (h) History, (i) Languages, (j) Mathematics, (k) Medicine, (l) Natural Sciences, (m) Social Sciences, (n) The Arts, (o) Other disciplines.

For (a) knowledge of French, Spanish, Arabic and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (b) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (c) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (d) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (e) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (f) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (g) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (h) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (i) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (j) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (k) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (l) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (m) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (n) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French. For (o) knowledge of English and an ability to teach in English and/or French.

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HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL Head of Legal Services

GRADE P03 (a) £554-£623

Applications are invited from qualified solicitors with substantial practical experience for the above post.

The Head of Legal Services reports directly to the Chief Executive and is responsible for advising Council, its Committees, and will act as the Council's Solicitor. The successful applicant will be responsible for providing the full range of legal services and be in charge of a staff of four Solicitors and fourteen Legal Executives/Support Staff.

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If you wish to discuss this appointment or receive further details please contact Mr. O'Shea 051-4242061 Ext. 132.

Applications in writing quoting reference number H 371 stating age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees and any other relevant information in support of your application to be submitted to the undersigned not later than Tuesday 22nd February, 1977.

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Appointment will be for an initial period of 2½ years. The salary for the post is HK\$4,830 to HK\$7,7

Charles Hargrove interviews the controversial leader of the French left

How Mitterrand's socialist vision could change the face of France

M François Mitterrand is the first secretary of a Socialist Party which, it is generally acknowledged, has now become the leading party in France. He is also the leader of the Union of the Left, which, according to the latest opinion polls, stands a real chance of coming to power in 1978. The political, economic, and constitutional consequences of such a victory would be far reaching.

M Mitterrand is convinced that his controversial alliance with the Communists, who still stand for some 19 to 20 per cent of the electorate, has paid off. The left came within an ace of winning the presidential elections of 1974, and since then its chances have further improved because the Socialist Party has pulled ahead of the Communists. "The workers and the exploited social classes," M Mitterrand told me, "lacked a party capable of promoting socialism without anyone fearing freedom. Today, this party, which stood for 10 to 12 per cent of the voters in 1971, now represents nearly 30 per cent of them."

If the Communist Party has not progressed, this is because the new Socialist Party has "responded to the aspirations of many Frenchmen who otherwise would have gone over to the Communists. The latter had fed for 25 years on the socialist substance. A certain reversal of things was natural." This Socialist advance raised a new problem for all political parties, and especially for the Communists.

I asked M Mitterrand whether the left did not have as much interest as the present majority in the success of the Barre anti-inflation plan, otherwise it would be faced with a catastrophic economic situation if it came to power next year. "Whose fault is it?" he replied. "The left is not, after all, responsible for the failures of the right. Naturally we hope that even with Messrs Giscard d'Estaing and Barre the situation improves, since Frenchmen, and in the first place the workers, suffer from it. But as we think that the crisis is caused mainly by the economic structures of the capitalist world, we prefer to propose remedies capable of curing the



disease durably. That is what we have done with the common programme of the left."

He was scathing about the policy of reform of M Giscard d'Estaing. "Words, words," he exclaimed. The President had tried to adapt the law in certain fields, but he had stopped there, through inability to attack the structures of a society whose injustices benefited the privilege of the ruling class. "The so-called advanced liberal society is only a variety of conservatism, a mixture of nineteenth century *laissez faire* and twentieth century technocratic dirigisme. Reforms are no longer possible without profound changes," he emphasized.

I asked him why the Socialist Party had not taken up the President Giscard d'Estaing's

offers to discuss with him problems of national interest. He said that these offers were vague, and more like "a personal publicity stunt than an opportunity for useful discussion. The attitude of the majority towards the opposition has for 18 years been intolerant and sectarian. The people of the left are left out of everything." But M Mitterrand said he rejected neither the principle nor the possibility of such discussion, although circumstances rendered it inopportune at the moment.

On the crucial point of whether President Giscard d'Estaing might remain in office if the left came to power, M Mitterrand said he could, "on condition that he respects the will of the voters, as well as the constitutional equilibria—im-

plicitly the relations between President and Prime Minister. "It will be difficult, but a sense of responsibility is the first quality of those who aspire to lead their peoples," he added. I remarked that the left was often accused of bringing into question the very institutions of the Fifth Republic. He replied that the constitutional revisions contemplated by the left had been clearly set out in the common programme. "The essential thing for us is to allow more democratic expression, the guarantee of individual liberties, the independence of justice, and a better balance between the executive and the legislature. The President of the Republic has exorbitant prerogatives acquired by usage more even than by the letter of the consti-

tution. He has no counterpart in western democracies." One of the major constitutional changes the socialists would introduce is a return to proportional representation.

As the constitution operated at present, it was "very difficult for the President to discharge his functions if he does not even have control of his own majority. That is what has happened with the Giscard-Chirac tandem, the CDS, now RPR, being the main force of what used to be called the 'presidential majority'." M Chirac's bid for the mayoralty of Paris could shorten the life of the present legislature and was "a dangerous attack on the authority of the President of the Republic. I see in this the seed of a new crisis of the bourgeois state, but I believe

that the rivals will come together again at the time of the next elections, because of the weight of the economic interests for which they stand."

On foreign policy, M Mitterrand said that, if in power, the Socialist Party would try to sign a treaty of friendship with Russia, while at the same time maintaining France in the Atlantic Alliance. But there was no question of a return to NATO.

I pointed out that the Socialist Party was sometimes taxed with a "neo-Gaullist" attitude in foreign policy, especially towards the United States. "De Gaulle did not invent France, and no one has reinvented De Gaulle," M Mitterrand said.

The socialists would also develop the Common Market, he said. "We have always been in favour of a regional policy for Europe. The Common Agricultural Policy is necessary in its principle and open to criticism in its practice. We accept the European institutions in order to change their content and prepare the advent of the Europe of the workers." He did not deny that there were differences between Socialists and Communists on defence and Europe. "The common programme is a good minimum programme. It does not pretend to harmonize finalities which remain different."

"What we want is simply for France to escape from imperialism in all its forms. If the United States understands this, we shall be excellent friends. The same reasoning applies to all intentions into affairs, to all attempts at hegemony, from whatever quarter," he went on.

M Mitterrand had a special thought for Britain. "We Socialists follow with special interest and strong sympathy the efforts to economic recovery of your country. We think," he stressed, "it is the heart of a decisive factor of the European equilibrium. We feel for friends. What affects her interests, affects ours. I was anxious that this statement of solidarity be included in the present interview. It is the warmest thing that the Socialist Party has said so far about Britain."

Bernard Levin

Mr Carter offers peanuts to Dr Sakharov

It would require a verbiage-meter of exceptional sensitivity to elicit any certain meaning from President Carter's comments accompanying his rebuke to the Soviet Department for its public criticism of the Soviet Union, and I am by no means fully satisfied that they had any. On the one hand, he is against sin; on the other, he wants no freeloader preacher condemning it. To be sure, those who resist tyranny have his sympathy; however, any expression of it would be impolitic. The State Department's remarks did reflect his own attitude also; as against that, they might have exacerbated the situation. Dr Sakharov had appealed directly to him; alas, it appears that Dr Sakharov had forgotten to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

There was a good deal more in the same vein (a singularly bloodless vein), and one bit rather wistful. The President announced that his "inclination" should Dr Sakharov ever visit the United States (possibly one never can tell—he is under the impression that notable dissidents may travel freely in and out of Russia) would be to meet him—but of course such a meeting could not be allowed to appear as though it was "directed against the Soviet Union."

This is not encouraging. Here is a newly-elected American President, owing less to any group or individual in his own country than any of his predecessors, within living memory, only a few days into his incumbency, and already in a position to say and do

virtually anything at all without fear of untoward political consequences, having been elected on a promise to introduce a new era of open, frank and truthful government; and what does he offer America and the world at the very first pressure on him by Russia's rulers? Why, hasty assurances of his unwillingness to resist such pressure, couched in terms so irresolute, equivocal and even ignoble that they might have been framed by Senator McGovern himself and accompanied by expressions of a belief that matters could be better advanced through his own relationship with Mr Brezhnev.

Contemplating that last claim, I am obliged to ask: doesn't he know anything about it? Does he not know, to start with, that Dr Sakharov and the other surviving members of the Resistance within the Soviet Union and her empire are only alive because they have been able, again and again, to feed their heroism off the crumbs of public support they have got from such few Western leaders as have been willing to offer any? If President Carter does not know that, he can learn it from evidence that came to hand just as he was executing his own unbecoming shuffle. The new dissident movement in Czechoslovakia has faced, within the past few weeks, savage and intensifying repression; its adherents risk arrest, mockeries and incarceration. But at least the Czech puppet government has now abruptly renounced from its intention to deport by force eight of the

The French are wont to say of one who speaks hastily and without wisdom that he has lost an opportunity to shut his mouth. Mr Carter has lost an opportunity to open his...



leading resisters of Soviet-imposed tyranny, and there is hope that many others will at any rate remain out of prison. And that has happened because, and only because, the Soviet "imperialists" have become alarmed by the volume of protest that has swelled up throughout the free world, not only from private individuals, eminent and unknown alike, but—much more important still—from governments, notably the Austrian and Norwegian. (Though not, of course, the British: I suppose Mr Callaghan feels that he is in quite enough trouble with his own left wing over economic policy, without further enraging them by being

insufficiently obsequious to the Soviet Union.) Brezhnev and his horrible crew are both imperialists and realists. They never lose sight of their aim—domination—but they also keep firmly in mind the possible consequences of pressing on with it too hard or too fast. By consequences I do not mean the risk of war or of a potentially explosive confrontation, though naturally such strategic considerations are never forgotten. But the detailed calculations always take the form of measuring, not the possibility of nuclear bombardment, but of political resistance which may nullify gains obtained earlier, or lead to losses in the immediate future.

The Soviet rulers face growing, possibly irresistible, defiance within their empire to their colonial rule. The Poles, the Czechs and the East Germans are all making the running at present; and the infection of freedom cannot be eradicated by injections of repression. What the imperialists need while they try to devise a method of dealing with the unrest is a diminution of the necessity for eternal vigilance elsewhere. As the stewpans of the enslaved nations begin to seethe and bubble, and even within the Soviet Union seven fires are lit for every one put out, Brezhnev needs above all an assurance that the United States will not offer moral and psychological support (she would not, after all, give the material kind) to those who are resisting him.

So he asks for such an assurance, and he instantly gets it. When the State Department offers words of comfort and support to Dr Sakharov, the Soviet Ambassador is sent round to protest. And instead of backing up the admirable official who put out the statement, President Carter publicly rebuts his conduct and deplores his words. And he does so, moreover, on the ground that such actions can make matters worse rather than better, and that more can be achieved by private contacts, back of which claims are the exact opposite of the truth. Brezhnev's fear of Dr Sakharov and the other resisters is based (apart from that part of it which reflects evil's eternal fear of good) upon the knowledge that the more they seem to be standing out against

tyranny, the more they will rally others to their side. If there were no *sanctus* activities within the Soviet Union, and no reports in the West of the resistance movement, Dr Sakharov would offer no threat at all to the Soviet rulers; it is the fully public knowledge outside, and the private-public knowledge inside, that makes him the danger he is.

And parallel with that truth runs the truth about the American President's "relationship" with the Soviet dictator. When the two meet, I have no doubt that Mr Carter will press Brezhnev to be less harsh towards those struggling for freedom within the Soviet lands, and he will be truly indignant about the suffering of those hero men and women. And Brezhnev will listen most carefully, and reply most politely, and not do anything at all. And he will not do anything because it will not be necessary for him to do anything, because only pressure for which he has to account, in however exigent a form, to his own people, and to the people of the world, will have any effect upon him.

The French are wont to say of one who speaks hastily and without wisdom that he has lost an excellent opportunity to shut his mouth. President Carter has lost an excellent opportunity to open his, and in doing so has done a disservice to the cause of freedom everywhere, and a dangerous one to those upholding it within the Soviet Union and around her borders.

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Small business, the economic dynamo, needs a policy —not more diktats

If the Government's industrial strategy is going to mean anything at all—and one may be forgiven for scepticism—a central feature ought to be a radical change in public policy towards the smaller end of business and towards small-scale entrepreneurship and effort in all economic sectors.

Why? Not just because it makes political sense to respond to the pressures of the increasingly well-organized small business and self-employed jobs, although many of the arguments from those quarters are perfectly valid; and not just because when expansion is resumed in the private sector it is the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker, as well as the local garage, the local builders, the farm, the wholesaler, the transport business, the local firm architects and the mass of small firms using high skills (what the Germans call the *Handwerk* sector) not just because it is all of these which look by far the best bet for new jobs (always supposing the trade unions will allow the jobs to be filled).

The case for a root and branch revision of public policy goes deeper than either of these two not insignificant considerations. It rests on a supposition which in the context of Whitehall policy over the past 20 years looks awkwardly out of place, almost whimsical, but whose hour may none the less have come.

It is that the smaller business community is not a sort of economic leftover, a social problem to be "coped with" by soothing passages in government speeches and a nice middle-rank minister to meet all these deplorable depictions, but that the factor in national economic performance. That is saying a very great deal and perhaps it had better be put another way. No one could dispute the importance of our major enterprises, whether state owned or more broadly owned, nor the head aches some of them pose, nor the staggering success others have achieved. But it could well be that what is still holding back Britain so miserably is not the familiar cluster of problems at the big end of big industry but the relatively and increasingly limited part which small-scale undertakings are being allowed to play in British industry and commerce.

In this we are peculiar. Not only is public policy elsewhere far more positive, but West Germany, for instance—and we are reminded of this by Graham Bannock in his excellent comparative study of smaller business for the Anglo-German Foundation—has as much as 40 per cent more small firms than the United Kingdom, taking full account of the large population of Japan. Mr Bannock points out, has a much larger small business sector than anywhere else. Of all advanced OECD countries the United Kingdom seems to have the fewest employed in small-scale manufacturing.

Could it be that these so-called miracle economies continue to be miraculous precisely because they have stayed fragmented enough and unstandardized enough and therefore supple enough to cope with new possibilities and new products at a speed which our more concentrated structure cannot manage? Could this flexibility account in some way for the extraordinary success of British agriculture—mostly organized in small units—in terms of output, productivity, research and innovation?

Could it be that those elusive qualities of originality, flair or just undiluted refinement, not to mention prompt delivery, which often count for so much more than price in world markets, are just the ones which come best from industries plentifully sprinkled with small-scale units among the inevitable handful of larger ones?

On this—the "strategy" question that could just conceivably be the most important of all the great industrial strategy is virtually silent. And no wonder. It is all poles apart from the philosophy of picking winners, reinforcing success, analysing sectors, putting bits of industry hopefully together.

It is completely at variance with the big bureaucratic "ism" which features so in national policy making requires a completely different policy from any visible in these quarters. A different perception about genesis of economic performance.

It is not just a question of adding a paragraph on small business problem" to the end of the chapter. It is a question of starting from small business point of view and building up from it. The Bolton report on firms had it about right: it warned of the utter futility of viewing smaller business as a distinct and separate part of the economy, to be off on the clutter list with any understanding of organic character of small scale undertakings in whole system.

A proper feel for this lent would lead us to de-economic and industrial dies in almost exactly reverse way to that presently used. Instead of product capital taxation and then giving round in circles "concessions" for business the aim should be to devise a system which is favourable to smallness seeding and growth then to worry about the it on everybody else.

But behind the changes in policy approach some deeper considerations. First, it could well be through this lens, through idea of small business: key to economic at rather than as a drag on wholly admirable conceals the social market economy with competition as its could begin to look closely in line with small business life as lived by millions than p has in the past.

The stress on the "part of the social economy was always a part of its progenitors" in explaining this, in time come for even more phasis not only on the clay but also on the q the human and the increasingly limited part which small-scale undertakings are being allowed to play in British industry and commerce.

Second, there is a vital need to break down ideas of small business activity and the wish a economic power more dispersed and the owners new wealth more widely. The small business new secures or diktats about the human and the life. The self-employed a or the partnership, see lessons about the advances personal capital building.

The aim of creating a more favourable climate independent business, having a greater prop of output and employment organised in this way, a small business with the worthwhile aims of wider and asset ownership, far wider participation, mass of the workers' formation of new c Progress on all these: spreading fronts is vital if political stability and economic growth are to be in the brittle, bureaucratic state-centralized system have.

Expansion of the small ness part of the econo therefore a central them a nostalgic afterthought belongs at the heart of the political agenda, sooner that is recognis Whitehall, the sooner competition policy, labour ket policy, taxation planning/policy, sound pr just to start. A small—be tion the quicker the dole will shrink and the brisk return, to a truly comp economy.

David H. The author is Conservator for Guildford.

The Times Diary

A visit to the lower depths

The Archbishop of Canterbury, whose usual concern is with lofty regions, descended several hundred feet under the fields of Kent yesterday. But he did not meet his opposite number, only the friendly miners of Boreashearer colliery, which must be the most scenically sited colliery in England, in the lush countryside 15 miles from Canterbury.

The bowels of the earth hold no terrors for Dr Coggan. He has been down a diamond mine in South Africa, and he was an occasional visitor to the pits of Yorkshire while Archbishop of York "21 years", he declared confidently.

Kitted out in bright orange overalls, donkey jacket, pit boots, helmet, lamp and self-rescue mask, the Archbishop spent two hours underground, travelling two miles and half from pit bottom to coal face, the last part of it in a three feet six inch seam on his hands and knees.

"This is simply the ordinary pattern of my working life," Dr Coggan said over sandwiches and beer. "I do like to get out to the places where people are

working. I love going to the docks, for example." He is the first cleric of such stature to visit the pit since 1924, when one of his predecessors, Randall Davidson, fired the first shot to begin construction of the mine shaft.

Jack Dunn, area secretary of the NUM, thought archbishops should come more often. "The amount of spit and polish and tidying up that has been going on here in the last few days would amaze you. They have just laid a new ash path on the underground roadway. It's a pity we have to wait for an archbishop to come to get these things done."

Immutable

Doing some repairs in my roof the other day, a builder found some copies of a publication called *The British Clayworker*, dating from 1895 and 1896. Reading through them provides intriguing evidence of how little British management has changed in 80 years.

First, their conviction that the way they are doing things now—especially the way they treat their staff—is the only possible way of doing it (see their reaction to the Bullock Report). Among the frequent reports of death and injury to boys of 13 and 14 working in the brickfields, the magazine carries a highly partisan ac-

PATRONS ARE REMINDED THAT AFTER 6.30 P.M. NO SOCKS AND SHOES IS THE MINIMUM DRESS REQUIREMENT NO THINGS AFTER 6.30 P.M. PLEASE

Wild nights in the Solomon Islands, where E. C. Dommen took this picture. For some, though, the perverse ban on things could spoil the pleasure promised by the liberal dress regulations.

count of a brickmakers' strike at Bridgwater.

The man had been out for six weeks, seeking an increase in wages from 2.6d a day to 3s. They were getting 2.9d strike pay from their union. The magazine reports temperously: "The gross perversion of facts published about the employers and the starvation of the workmen will perhaps be treated with all the consideration deserved as statements from irresponsible quarters, but they are very annoying."

The workers, naturally, were led by "professional agitators". The employers could not give in unless they were prepared to work at a loss, though figures in another copy of the

paper show that brickworkers were better paid in most other parts of the world. The Riot Act had been read and soldiers sent in.

Another issue carries an interview with an American brickmaker comparing management techniques in his and our country. He says: "There is not the same ambition to 'keep up with the procession' that there is in America. And yet it is not that the Englishman has any particular pleasure in being slow, but rather that he has a great belief in 'letting well alone'."

"If his yard or works is doing fairly well and bringing him in a fairly satisfactory income, he prefers to keep on in the old quiet way, and live in gentility and ease, rather than turn his place upside down and lay awake nights worrying as to the outcome of changes that might even add 50 or 100 per cent to his profits."

"Hence it is that there are any number of works going on in practically the same old way that they were perhaps 20 or 30 years ago." Sounds familiar.

Discrimination

When El Vino's, the noted Fleet Street wine bar, seeks the annual renewal of its licence at the Brewster Sessions at Guildhall next week, it will face opposition. Terry Parkinson, industrial reporter

of the *Daily Mirror*, will urge the magistrates not to renew the licence on the grounds that the bar flouts the spirit of the Sex Discrimination Act.

He will take with him two women, who will give evidence that they were refused service at the bar itself. El Vino's has traditionally only admitted men to sit at tables, and will not let them stand up with the seagull male drinkers.

Parkinson says that the discrimination involved in this was brought to him on a hot day last summer, when he was refused service for a different reason—because he was not wearing a tie. That was when he decided to take action.

David Mitchell, Conservative MP for Basingstoke, is a joint managing director of El Vino's with his brother Christopher. Christopher Mitchell and Paul Bracken are the joint licensees.

Mood music

Togorrows E. C. "Teddy" Holmes, the doyen of British music publishers, celebrates 60 years with Chappell's, the firm of which he is a director. When he joined, it was as an office boy, delegated to tolling up countless copies of the current hit, *The Missouri Waltz*, for the post each morning.

Later he became a piano demonstrator, and played for the royalty who in those days

priceless clarity for the Union leaders, sir, to show their importance; or bear to underline we most economies?



bought their sheet music at Chappell's. He also played songs over for Nellie Melba, and she once tried to persuade him to accompany her on her farewell tour of the world. He was an accompanist for Gracie Fields in some of her wartime ENSA shows.

"My great love is middle of

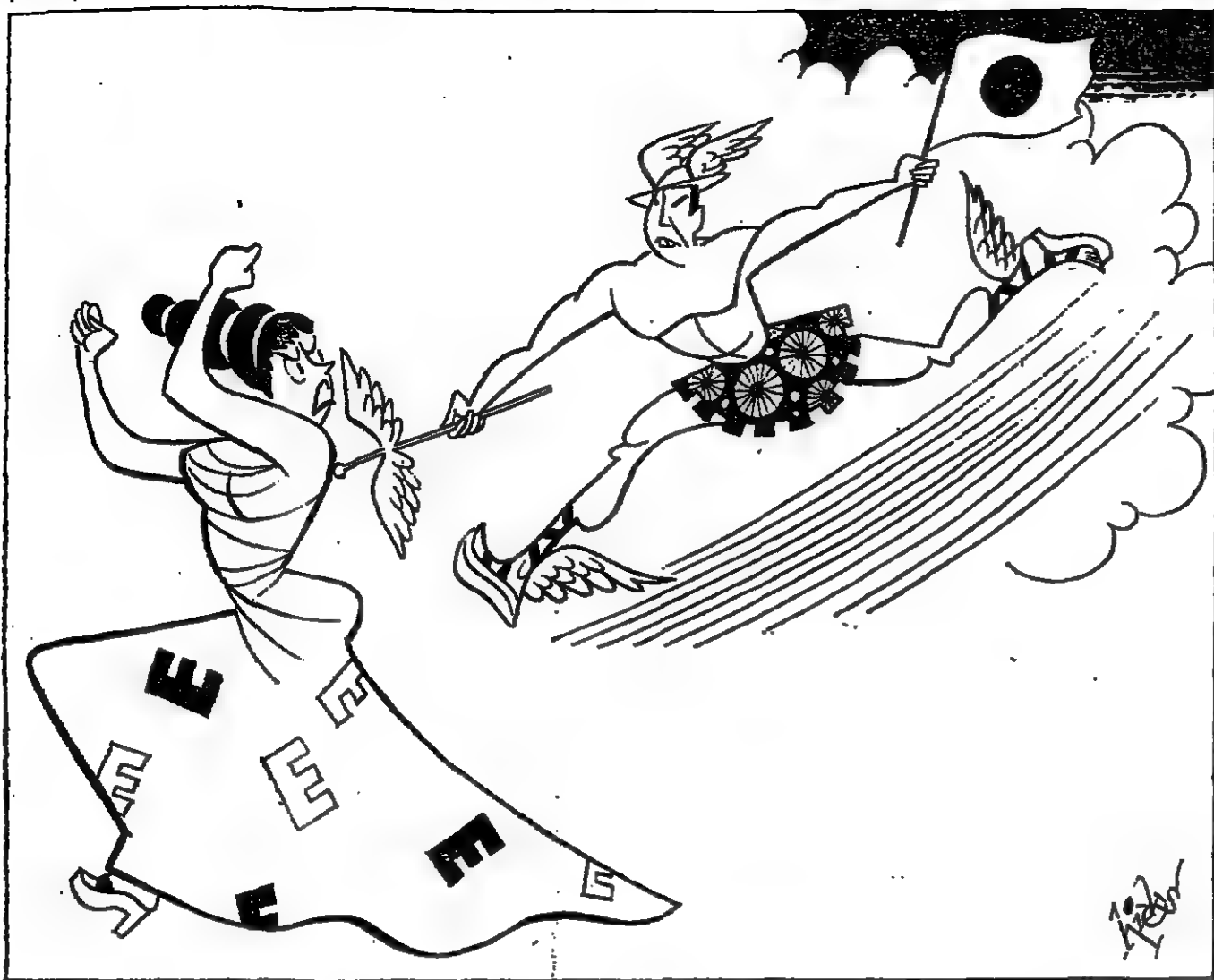
the road music" he says is still very much alive, a important part of any lisher's repertoire. There lot of nostalgia in the o and, thanks to the BBC, of opportunities for pro standard music. More a son singing Ivor Novello 'Bygrave'—a Geoff Love one of the biggest sales time you know, with li movie theme.

Each year, through the Publishers' Association, B is involved in choosing British entry for the Euro Song Contest. "I don't tend to understand what world, though nice songs take time. I leave it to the young people, but I around to listen to recitals, which is my b

I am worried about the can music, especially on West Coast, who seems letting his concern for in overwhelm other aspect polite behaviour. I have on the authority of Agutter, the actress, who quoted in the *Bangkok Post* as bemoaning: 'Most of the I've gone out with in Angeles have very little in a girl except good looks.'

Le Monde
LA STAMPA
THE TIMES
DIE WELT

Europa



Salesmen stumble over Japan's subtle traps

As between Japan and Europe, the trade is somewhat clouded by their different trade. Dialogue is far from easy. Then one side invokes the letter of the law, the other refers to customs. The result is a stalemate. Admittedly, the trade is not always of a high level.

47. Renault signed an agreement with a small Japanese motor manufacturer, Hiho, the right to produce a *quatre chevaux* model under license. Cooperation between the two companies continued for 10 years, which Japan's as yet still immature industry gradually grew in learning to "copy" European cars. Then, after the licence ran out in 1957, nothing happened for 20

years until they admit that "we try very hard". The high customs duty (about 40 per cent) and the intransigence of the Japanese government in restricting all foreign car imports to a maximum of 100,000 units a year were sufficient disincentives to allow home industry to develop within its protective cocoon. For years or so, most of the cars have been removed and Renault, which exports half its output, managed to one car to Japan. The common complaint is that the obstacles put up in the way of almost all other cars are imported, quoting the downs of the type-approval system during the first weeks and was not completed until it did not know why. One day simply told that the car was proved. It could have happened months earlier. The did not even ask for the which they had demanded previously. A typical example.

When asked to account for their lack of success on the Japanese market, where France sold only 128 vehicles last year, the managements of the French motor manufacturers become embarrassed. "Covert protectionism", "an impossible market", they mutter before going on to enumerate the traps set to foil the venturesome exporter.

First on their list of complaints is the problem of standards. Whether concerned with pollution, safety or noise, they are different from those in Europe and incomparably stricter. According to Renault, "to comply with them, we would almost have to build completely different cars and this could be justified only by a large volume of sales".

This is a vicious circle because the price difference (up to 100 per cent) between French and Japanese cars means that the market open to the former is bound to remain limited. For instance, Renault estimates that if it mounted a major campaign it could eventually sell a maximum of 20,000 cars in Japan, not enough to justify substantial expenditure on marketing.

Apart from the actual content of the standards, the manner in which they are applied is the main source of friction between the Japanese authorities and European firms, whose most common complaint is that they are not given enough notice of the frequent modifications.

"When the Japanese draft a standard, they get together among themselves and as soon as it is published it becomes almost inviolable. They do not go back on their decisions in Japan", the manufacturers claim, "but one fine morning, you are informed that your car cannot be admitted because it no longer meets the new standards."

The type-approval procedure is all the more formidable an ordeal in that European firms do not know at the

outset what is going to be required of them. "You are constantly being asked to produce further information, additional test reports" and if the slightest detail is out of line, the whole procedure has to be started again from scratch. Moreover, all the standards contain a number of unquantified criteria open to subjective interpretation according to the disposition of the inspector.

Let us consider the example of the Renault 5 case: the Japanese regulations specify that the temperature given off by the exhaust system must not be dangerous, but no maximum temperature is laid down. "We thought we were well placed, since the temperature on the Renault 5 was lower than on other vehicles which had been approved. Nevertheless, they insisted that our entire exhaust system had to be fitted with an extremely expensive protective casing similar to those on Japanese models."

Clearly the motor manufacturers have the impression—not without justification—that the type-approval procedures applied to their vehicles are arbitrary and that success depends on political decisions which have nothing to do with the strict rules on environmental conservation. These non-tariff barriers account more than adequately for the motor manufacturers' poor record on the Japanese market, but they are not alone among French exporters in adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Apart from a few notable exceptions—companies like Rossignol, for instance—the bulk of French sales to Japan is made up of luxury products (clothes, scent, glassware, spirits, toys, works of art) able to trade directly on the Japanese infatuation with French culture and *kudos*.

"French scent and fashion have a special appeal to the Japanese imagination. A French trade-mark, brand name or label is enough to impress them. You cannot imagine the number of appalling cooks who are

making a fortune there, purely on the basis of their nationality," M. Fuchs, export manager at Nina Ricci, explained.

However, although Japanese buyers account year in year out for some 15 per cent of Ricci's turnover in scent, they do most of their buying in Paris, in the duty-free shops at the airports and on aircraft, while only 5 per cent of the total comes from sales on Japanese soil.

Nina Ricci's experience provides a number of pointers. The firm formed an association with one of the large Japanese distributive trade, controlling or looking after large numbers of clients, small distributors, dealers, importers and so on. This chain introduced Nina Ricci to its importer but, according to M. Fuchs, it was four years before the importer succeeded in getting the firm's products sold in all the stores in the chain.

There were two reasons for this. First, buyers in the provinces are accustomed to dealing with a limited number of intermediaries and to sell to their shops it was necessary to approach them through the accredited wholesaler. Second, it is customary for large stores to let appreciable areas of their floor space to small retailers; in many instances, therefore, it was necessary to negotiate, not with the chain itself, but with the lessee.

It should also be borne in mind that the importer selected will have the greatest difficulty in selling in a store belonging to a rival chain and that most of the small specialist shops are dependent on the few major Japanese brands of cosmetics, so that it is hard for French brands to set up a sales network and win more than a token share of the market.

However, claims of "covert protectionism" are not so easily justified here. The only excuse for French firms is their ignorance of the laws of the Japanese commercial jungle.

Véronique Maurus

All the President's men

Carter team finds new hope in Old World

If we compare the newly formed Carter team with Mr Ford's team, Europe has lost a Secretary of State (Kissinger, a German), but has gained a Treasury Secretary (Blumenthal, a German) and a National Security Affairs Assistant (Brzezinski, a Pole). Valued in chess terms the exchange may appear a bad one—a queen, against a knight and a pawn—but in political terms it is clearly a good one. The bare details of the changes in appointments do not give a true picture of the influence that the old Continent has had on the development, the way of thinking and, one hopes, the future line of action of America's new rulers.

Dr Kissinger, it was said again and again, might appear in some way an epigone of Metternich; an architect, that is, of political restoration, a rigid controller of the status quo. In President Nixon, as American political commentators were very late in discovering, he had found the reflection of his "Middle European" pessimism, a total disbelief in the governability of men and things, which gave him that obsessive need to control everybody, to "stonewall" the enemy within and without.

It was also said that, from Dr Kissinger, Mr Nixon had absorbed a rather distorted conception of Hegelism, a strange form of dialectic in which the synthesis should be but a reaffirmation of the thesis: and this created the basis, finally, for a vertical collapse of the security and control system—Watergate, in internal affairs, and economic Waterloo for the allies, where foreign affairs were concerned.

The new team, on the other hand, comes to office with optimism and trust as its credentials. Europe, which for the past eight years has represented a danger signal to Washington, appears, through the eyes of the new administrators, to offer an opportunity for new policies.

For the time being there is more good will than actual proposals, but one thing is certain: where the views of Mr Vance, Dr Brzezinski, or Mr Gardner, the American Ambassador to Italy, are concerned, the double standard of values that in the past has seemed to apply to the economic and political growth or contraction of Europe is gone—a double standard under which European growth implied an "anti-American competitive block" and European contraction signified "break-down, in a micro-universe of economic troubles. North and South, Eurocommunists and Euro-conservatives". Today, the fact that the United States needs Europe is clearly recognized.

But if, in the outgoing Administration, there were recognizable traces of European thought (one need only review the previous work of Dr Kissinger before he entered the Government) in the Carter Administration continental influence appears to be perhaps more pragmatic than theoretical. There are indeed certain personal factors, as in the case of Mr Blumenthal, a Berlin Jew who emigrated with his family from Nazi Germany, or Dr Brzezinski, a Pole from Warsaw, married to a relation of the 1930s Czechoslovak President, Edward Benes. But it is essential to resist the temptation to psychoanalyse; it must be recognized, as with Dr Kissinger, that diplomatic decisions have their roots in wounds of long ago.

All that can be ascribed to the personal history of the "Europeans" in the Carter Government is a solid intolerance of any kind of totalitarian regime (and this is already a very



President Carter with Mr Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury.

good thing to have inherited from the old Europe). The rest of the continental influx belongs to the realm of the Carter men's subsequent development, their personal contacts with the other shore of the Atlantic. Almost without exception, the personalities chosen by Mr Carter in positions connected with foreign policy have in recent years been repeatedly exposed to the influence of European intellectuals, politicians, journalists, and many of them have a direct knowledge of the difficulties of our countries.

They have "breathed" Europe during these years, and their lungs have been New York, the international organizations, and consultation and debating groups such as the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, the universities, and the internationalism of culture. Some of them went so far as to cause a scandal by inviting a communist to speak and join in discussion in New York, and the Department of State had to intervene to stop him (this was the case of an Italian Communist Party spokesman). In their role as executives of multinational companies or as travelling intellectuals, they open up the White House and the ministries to the cleansing wind of personal acquaintanceships and human relations, which may sweep away some of the stifling air of culture accumulated during eight years of Nixonian provincialism.

Paradoxically, therefore, although America's new administrators are considerably more American than their predecessors (Mr Gardner calls them "pragmatic idealists"—and what else is an American?) they are better equipped, if not more amply so, from the European point of view. The least well equipped of them all, in this sense, is Mr Carter himself, but it is a mark of his ability that he has chosen people with wide cosmopolitan experience to run his international affairs, without fear of suffering by comparison. He knows very well that, if Metternich was the inspiration of Dr Kissinger, the inspiration of Mr Vance and Dr Brzezinski will still be Mr Carter.

Vittorio Zucconi

On the contrary Hallstein rides again

Hallstein, first President of the EEC Commission, is back. "We're not in business—we're in politics." Now it seems to have been revived. Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission's new President, has reminded the European Community that the Community is an economic means to a political end. Mr Anthony Crosland, the new Chairman of the Commission, has spoken of its "political reality". But two paradoxes remain.

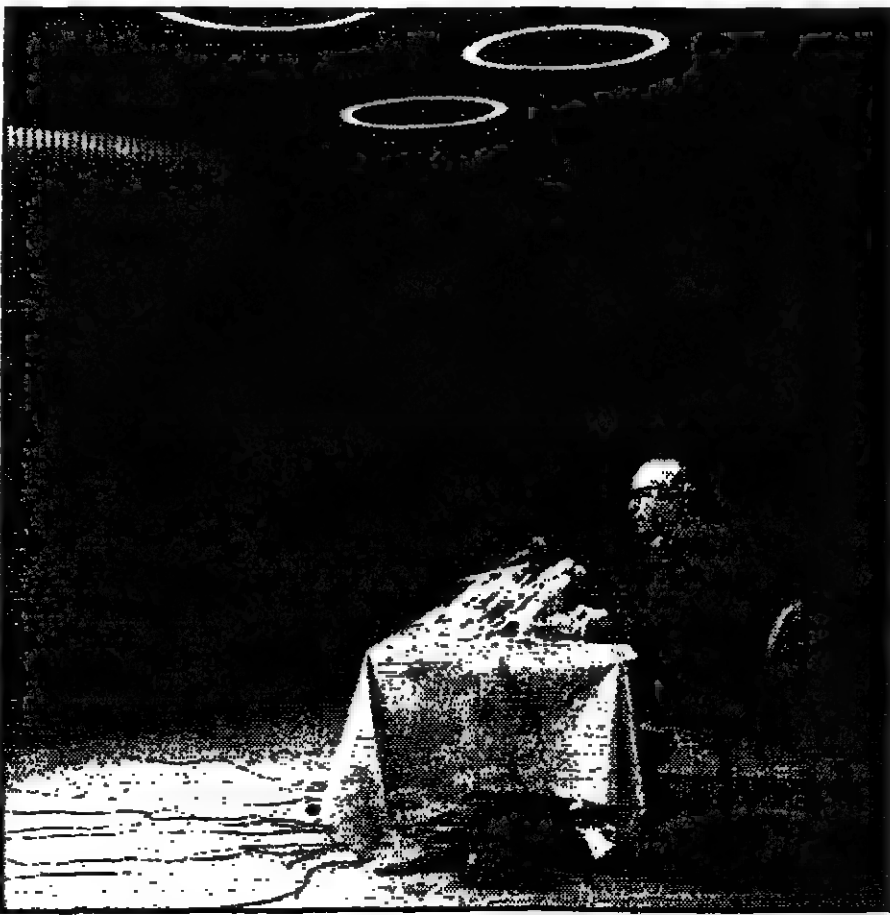
First is further enlargement. Everyone wants Greece and other countries to join—for political reasons. But no one claims how the Community's modest political content can avoid being spread too thin.

Second paradox suggests an answer. Since 1954, when the European Defence Community failed, economic integration has been the detour round that political roadblock. Now, inflation, unemployment and widely divergent growth, has become a roadblock in its turn.

At the time has come to make a detour round the road and head straight for Europe's political goal. With budget cuts and defence costs soaring, a European security pool looks more attractive.

It could always be told: "We're not in politics—we're in business." Otherwise, we may not be in business at all.

Pangloss



French Republic

Ministere de la Qualite
de la Vie

Joint Ministerial Group Electric Vehicles

2ND ADVICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER

The Joint Ministerial Group on Electric Vehicles is launching an international call for tenders for the production of specifications for different types of electric accumulator commercial vehicles. The object of this call for tenders is:

In the light of the results of these tenders and the requirements formulated by public and local bodies represented on the Electric Vehicle Public User Group, to obtain detailed specifications to be used as a basis for a limited call for tenders relating to the production and testing of a prototype production vehicle in each type, and a preliminary production series;

to select those tenderers who will be authorized to reply to the limited call for tenders.

The specifications will define the technical, functional and financial characteristics of each type of vehicle, which must meet the minimum requirements stated in the tender particulars. The production prototypes of the selected vehicles must be available within the periods specified in the tender regulations. Prior nominations are not required. Interested parties may obtain a copy of the tender dossier by request from:

Secrétariat Général du Haut Comité de l'Environnement
14, Boulevard du Général Leclerc
92521-Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

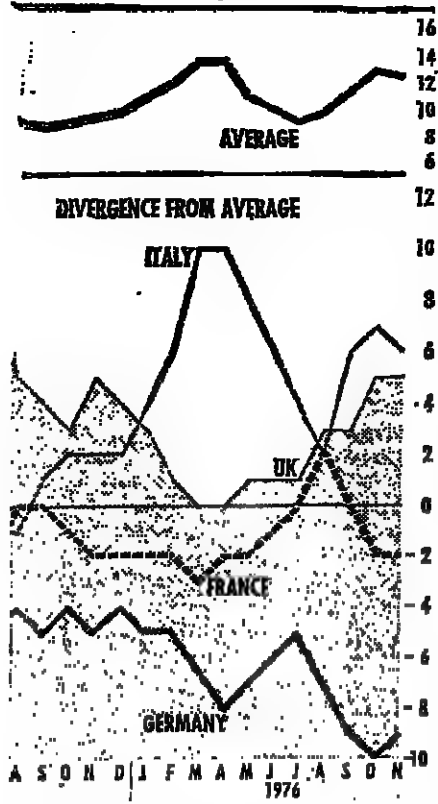
This dossier includes the notice of tender, special regulations and particulars.

The attention of those submitting tenders is drawn particularly to the final date for submission of tenders, which has been put back to May 15th, 1977.

Facts and figures

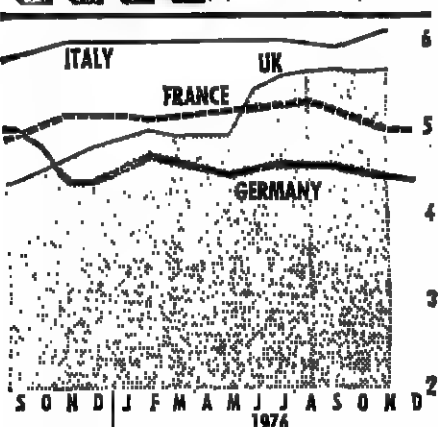
Saudi Arabia oils the western wheels

£ L Dm Fr PRICES



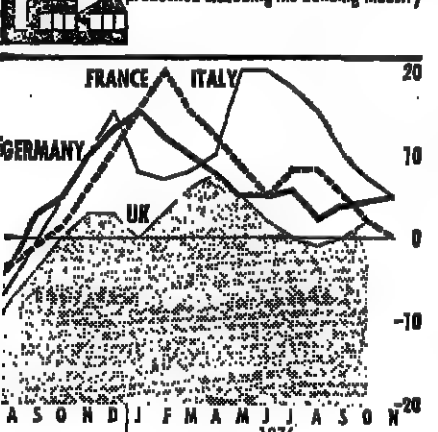
Prices.—On the prices front, the end of the year brought a slight improvement reflected in a fall from 13 per cent to 12.5 per cent in the average rate of increase for the four countries from October to November. The rate has been cut in France (from 11.5 per cent to 10 per cent) and Italy (from 20 per cent to 18 per cent), while rising in West Germany from 2 per cent to 3 per cent, so that the spread between the four countries is tending to narrow.

EMPLOYMENT



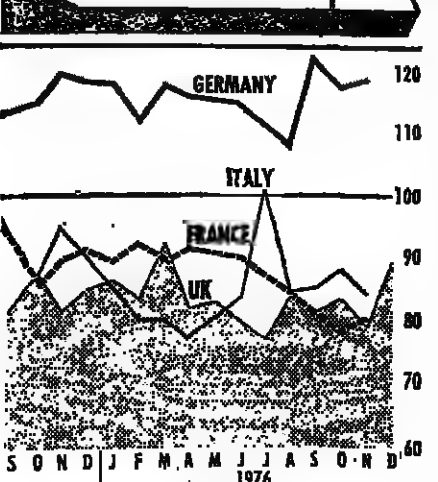
Employment.—Seasonally adjusted unemployment as a proportion of the working population is unchanged at 4.95 per cent in France and 4.4 per cent in West Germany, but has risen slightly from 5.5 per cent to 5.65 per cent in Britain and from 6 per cent to 6.1 per cent in Italy.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH



Industrial growth.—In November, industrial production showed a tendency to stagnate in France, continued to fall off in Italy and, in contrast, recovered slightly in West Germany to a modest rate of 5 per cent.

FOREIGN TRADE



Foreign trade.—West Germany's cover of imports by exports (calculated fob-cif and seasonally adjusted) returned to its customary high level of 120 per cent over September-November. During the same period, France's marked time at 80 per cent. Italy's improved in October, but fell back to 84 per cent in November. The spectacular achievement, however, is Britain's improvement from 79 per cent to 89 per cent.

	Rate of growth	Quality of growth		Maintenance of growth		
		Prices	Unemployment	Productive capacity	Foreign trade	Vulnerability to external factors
GERMANY	●●●	●●●	○	●●●	●●●	●●●
FRANCE	○	○	○	○	○	○
ITALY	○	○	○	○	○	○
BRITAIN	○	○	○	○	○	○

Not long ago the prospects for the future were still doubtful, although there had been some good news such as the slight recovery in the United States and West Germany. This was because there were still many political and economic uncertainties.

The oil price review was looming and there were those who feared the worst, with increases of 20 per cent or even 30 per cent. Feeding on this apprehension, speculation was dragging down the currencies and trade balances of the weaker economies and it was difficult to see how these countries could be put back on to an even keel by any means short of stringent austerity.

Now, after little more than a month, a few major developments, each strengthening the effects of the others, have suddenly tipped the scales on the side of optimism, even causing a general rise on stock exchanges.

The most important of these is without doubt Saudi Arabia's decision to increase its crude oil price by only 5 per cent and use all its weight to ensure that this moderate line prevails. It has every chance of success, to judge by the difficulties which Iran is experiencing in selling at the higher rate.

Consequently, there are grounds for hoping for an early improvement in the trade balances of countries like France, Britain and Italy which have been seriously affected by the speculation on the oil price increase. Indeed, the British balance of payments, much to the surprise of the authorities, actually marked up a surplus in December.

More important than this, however, is the fact that the industrial countries have been relieved of the pressures, both inflationary (accelerating pace of price increases) and deflationary (sterilization of part of unused additional income), to which an excessive increase in the price of oil would have led. This has made it possible to avert a deep slump.

Have the lessons of experience over the past three years, which have demonstrated the extent of international interdependence, finally been learnt?

It would seem so to judge by a second example of the international agreement which has grown up in the face of mounting threats: the massive aid made available to Britain in the form of a \$3,900m loan from the International Monetary Fund followed up by a further \$3,000m to consolidate the sterling balances, most of which was provided by the three rich countries, the United States, West Germany and Japan.

This aid was very quick to bear fruit: the pound rose, helping international monetary stability and steadying the franc and the lira. There may therefore be some hope of seeing the vulnerable countries emerging from the vicious circle of weak currencies and inflation which was dragging them down, forcing them into further austerity measures. The results are already very clear-cut for France, a little less so for Britain. If these are confirmed and strengthened, they should enable these countries to catch up with the front-runners of the western economy. This will provide a much-needed stimulus, particularly for West Germany and Japan, which need the export business.

It is undesirable for there to be too wide a gap, such as that foreshadowed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, be-

tween the growth rates of the stronger countries and the weaker countries, because its inevitable result would be to hold back the development of the former. Admittedly, when they are in phase, growth rates are less stable, but the primary role of international solidarity is to coordinate them.

The western world is now in a very much better position to press ahead resolutely. There are growing signs of a recovery in the United States, in particular the coincidence of an improvement in consumer confidence as borne out by a recent survey conducted by the Conference Board, with the appreciable improvement in retail sales which, having risen by barely 0.3 per cent in October, shot ahead by 1.9 per cent in November and 3.1 per cent in December.

On the investment front, however, there is still no significant improvement. At least, there has been no build-up of the strategic type of investment which takes the offensive, placing trust in the future: new factories, new capital projects and new jobs.

Unfortunately, such investment as is being embarked upon is of a more defensive character, concerned with rationalization, productivity gains and contraction of workforces—reflecting fear of the future and of international competition. In an economy going through a period of normal growth, both types of investment should be in evidence, not just one. Unless the balance is redressed, there can be no durable growth.

One of the requirements for bringing about this balance seems to have been met already, with the considerable fall in interest rates. But this is not enough: direct incentives are also necessary. However, the \$30,000m programme phased over 1977 and 1978 just announced by Mr Jimmy Carter does not contribute very much in the way of incentives: scarcely \$2,000m. Moreover, these take the form of reductions in employers' social contributions and are not real incentives. Nor does there seem to be anything decisive for the time being in the plans of West Germany or Japan.

If there has been some neglect of investment, the same cannot be said

about employment. In the countries which have won the battle with inflation, unemployment is now becoming the prime area of concern, even if this is not yet admitted in West Germany, where inflation is still regarded as public enemy number one.

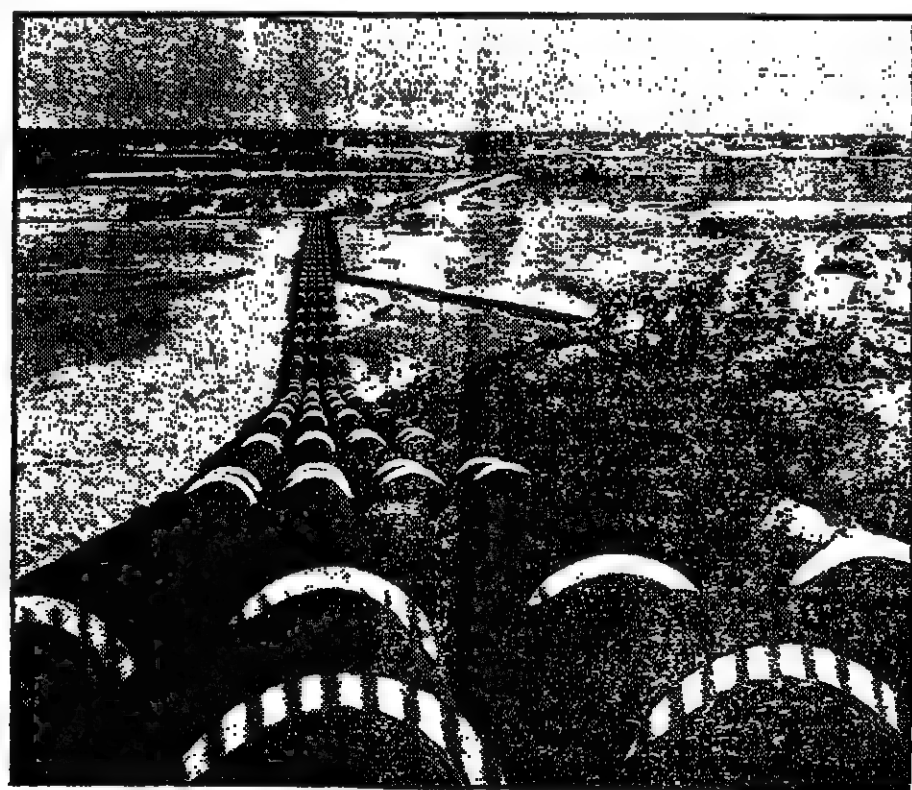
The problem of unemployment unfortunately presents even more difficulties than that of investment. It is not without interest here to refer to a shift in Mr Carter's policy objectives: having proclaimed during his electoral campaign that he would reduce unemployment from 8 per cent to 6 per cent during the course of 1977, he has prudently adopted the more modest objective of a 10 per cent reduction in his recent programme. The 5 per cent "natural" growth projected for the United States in 1977 will therefore not be sufficient to bring back full employment.

This growth rate could no doubt be boosted to 6 per cent or indeed—and this is what is envisaged in Mr Carter's programme—major projects could be launched to provide jobs for 800,000 unemployed. But either solution poses the threat of a substantial budget deficit and therefore of inflation.

The problem seems just as difficult in West Germany, which has managed hitherto to keep unemployment down by curbing immigration and encouraging immigrant workers to return to their countries of origin. Now other solutions will be needed. It is interesting in this connection to recall the measures adopted at the end of 1976, providing aid of DM1,600m to encourage greater mobility among workers. These measures have not proved successful thus far, since the December unemployment figure is higher than any in the previous eight months (almost 1,100,000, unadjusted).

In the United States, West Germany and still more in the other countries, it is not enough to bring back growth. It must be made durable and acceptable in social terms. To do this, a solution must be found to the twin problems of unemployment and investment. This is probably a matter of long-term rather than short-term measures.

Maurice Bommensath



United States: comparative situation and influence

Industrial growth ● (●)

More signs of an upturn. The index of forward indicators rose again in October (by 0.67 per cent) and November (1 per cent), so that it is now back at its high pre-recession level. Industry's order book was up by 0.8 per cent in October and 1 per cent in November. Retail sales also improved appreciably, by 1.9 per cent in November and 3.1 per cent in December.

Prices ● (●●)

The contrast between retail and wholesale price trends continues. Retail prices are still running at a moderate rate of 4.5 per cent, although this is higher than West Germany's 3 per cent. Wholesale prices on the other hand are beginning to give cause for concern, with an increase from November to December which would give an annual rate of some 10 per cent.

Employment ○ (○○)

After a rise of 8.1 per cent in November, unemployment as a ratio of the total population eased to 7.9 per cent in December, the same level as in October. The improvement comes from a slight fall in the total number of unemployed (from 7,800,000 to 7,600,000) coupled with an increase in the number of employed (from 88,100,000 to 88,300,000).

Productive capacity ● (●)

Use of capacity, which weakened in the second and third quarters of 1976, improved slightly during November to a shade more than 80 per cent, reflecting the effects of the pause which was then followed by the recovery towards the end of 1976.

Foreign trade ○ (○)

The November trade balance showed a worse deficit than October's. Calculated fob-cif, it was \$900m.

Influence on the four countries.

Monetary and financial: Thanks to the new monetary stability, the fall in interest rates has been able to spread from the United States to Europe. In Britain, minimum lending rate, already reduced from 15 per cent to 14 per cent, has been brought down still further, to 12½ per cent. Day-to-day money in France has now managed to remain below 10 per cent for some time.

Economic: After a long wait, Mr Carter has started to give some indication of his plans: an injection of \$30,000m into the American economy over two years, with priority being given to job creation. The United States is therefore well placed to provide the motive force for the western economy. However, it is difficult to assess the likely effects of this decision, since one also has to take account of a spontaneous recovery on a scale not yet known.

○ Poor ○○ Bad ● Fairly good ●● Good () Previous performance



Big brother goes electronic

Increasing concern over the rapid and so far unmonitored growth of international data communications will be highlighted during the next fortnight by meetings at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe.

The first meeting on Thursday at the OECD will debate whether to hold an international seminar on the subject this September. The second, on February 14 in Strasbourg, will be the first attempt by a Council of Europe committee of experts and participating observers from non-member nations to draw up a draft international convention on data protection.

Despite the mass of legislation now being prepared by most European nations to curb computer invasion of privacy there is precious little in the way of international law to regulate and protect a company's computer operations at an international level.

The absence of an international agreement governing computer networks and the transmission of data across national frontiers affects many computer users. Not only the large companies and firms offering international computer services are involved, but also smaller companies, some of which are having their data processed abroad without being aware of it.

On the one hand, the companies are vulnerable to events and legislation in other countries. It also means that unscrupulous companies can escape strict legislation in their own countries by carrying out their data processing in states where the law is more permissive—the data equivalent of a tax haven.

Next week a Council of Europe committee of experts makes its first attempt at producing a draft convention to resolve some of these problems, with representatives of the OECD, the EEC and non-member nations as observers.

Most of the new national laws and draft legislation can be grouped under the heading data protection. They are designed to prevent harmful misuse of computer data banks referring to named people. The classic example of misuse would be that of a credit checking agency which may transmit erroneous data on a named individual to one of its clients.

The new laws look like varying significantly from country to country despite a fair amount of common ground and international cooperation. Though initial legislation will be fairly mild, the gaps and overlaps in national laws will inevitably present legal hazards and administrative problems for organizations using international networks. Any firm with a name-and-address file may be put in the position of unwittingly transgressing the new laws.

One of the big unknowns facing the experts in sorting out the political, legal and technical ramifications of international legislation is that no one is too sure just how much transnational data processing is going on. One thing which is certain is that it is growing fast.

It has been estimated that there are 200-300 private international data networks in use in the western world. Most large multinationals now run complex international networks to control their subsidiaries. Operations such as reservation services for airlines, hotels, hire cars and travel, are by their nature built around a network which transmits and holds information on travellers around the world.

Less obvious examples are the smaller companies which have their data processed, not on their own computer, but on a computer belonging to a service bureau. Some of these service bureaux, in particular the United States-owned firms, but also some European companies, offer a facility where the data input by a user is transmitted for processing to a computer centre outside the country of the user.

In some cases, a bureau apparently operating exclusively in its own country will subcontract work to another firm which may process abroad because it is cheaper. Eastern Europe and Taiwan regularly provide cheap card punching for other European and North American firms. United Kingdom firms may be able to process more cheaply in Ireland—and for bureaux with expensive spare capacity dumping becomes possible by way of an international network.

What might cause a hiccup in these smooth flowing international operations is specific legislation by one state or group of nations. The Netherlands will be able to extend national regulations to data processing systems situated partly abroad.

Several countries, including Sweden, France, Austria and Spain, have planned or existing legislation enabling the national authority to restrict or prohibit transborder data movements if there is a risk to the privacy of the people concerned or to the interests of the state.

What some experts fear is that out an international agreement country may be tempted to apply national legislation unduly strict either from over-zealous pursuit of privacy safeguards or to protect own computer service bureau industry or to influence for whatever reason the operations of a foreign multinational firm. From a European protectionist standpoint, this proves to be a good idea.

Firms involved in these areas worried but not too concerned at forthcoming legislation. But many only just started to look at problems. A recent Council of Europe meeting was attended by a legal representative of one of the large US States service companies.

Another real difficulty is the transborder data network will be subject to more than one set of data protection regulations. In the new restrictive legislation, it applies only to name-linked data. It probably involve the user in checking what the data is being used for, accurate it is, who has access to how long it has been on file and so on.

But the situation could be complex for any firm which imports or exports—and which almost certainly has a name-linked supply or customer file. Few question need for data protection laws to guard the individual's rights. In the exporting of data is made in-ticable or is prohibited, then removes 80 per cent of the value system for many users of international networks.

The other danger which faces companies which send their data abroad for processing is that they may find difficulty getting their data back. It is a more remote but none the less real possibility.

A simple example would be a general strike in the processing country—or some other action, civil or governmental, which could not be controlled from the user country. Swedes in particular have been to this problem and postulate a situation where thousands of their businesses are unable to function because they can no longer get at their data. The strategic risks of allowing important part of a country's business operating data to be held abroad only too obvious.

Risks are also run by state organizations. Recently a group of old pensioners in one of the major countries failed to receive regular social security cheques. Country in question had its computer cards punched in an East European country. On their return customs officer had retained a haul of cards—and the corresponding pensioners missed their cheques.

The other side of the data protection—the use of countries with passive protection laws as data havens has already received publicity. A man detective agency attempting to bypass impending German legislation announced the removal of its base to Luxembourg.

Any international agreement, as long as one is reached, on these issues will have to be a compromise between data protection, national independence and free trade in data. But at least the danger of a series of independent conventions from OECD, the Council of Europe, EEC, not to mention the Nordic countries and other individual nations receded a little. The OECD, EEC non-Council of Europe members participating observers at the 14 round of talks.

Work is still proceeding on separate fronts, however, and the Council of Europe is concentrating on strict data protection issues, while the OECD is to look more closely at the protection of national interests from dangers of storage and processing data abroad.

Some European officials are optimistic that both member nations and participating observer nations, such as the United States, Canada and Japan will be signatories to an even Council of Europe convention. But only by analogy with the length time it took France to sign the European Human Rights Convention others are insisting that it is far a foregone conclusion.

Andrew Lil

Social policy about to catch a cold

Can we afford all the benefits of the welfare state, when budgets everywhere are in deficit? The blessings of the affluent society now threaten to become a curse. Professor Bruno Molitor, of the University of Würzburg, argues that the time has come for radical change.

Is the American economist Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, in a book rapidly becoming an international bestseller, characterized the modern industrial countries as "post-scarcity societies"? With engagingly simple language, he urged his colleagues in economics to drop the old ideas of scarcity and the traditional notions of production because these were out of date and to address themselves to the new tasks which, instead, were set by the economic "paradise found".

To postulate that the affluent society had arrived was, to say the least, to say too much. Today things look very different. In many European countries, inflation has reached menacing proportions. At the same time a type of unemployment which threatens to persist has set in. Budgets are in deficit. And in many cases growing disequilibrium in the balance of payments overshadows other difficulties.

Is it a wonder that the social security system is also getting into difficulties? It is being exposed to a test. On the one hand, in conditions of high unemployment and to meet for the fall in the value of the rate at which claims are made on the system is rising. On the other, it is becoming increasingly difficult, with the prevailing low rate of economic growth, to finance the transfer payments. And despite the fact that the burden of compulsory contributions and taxation on earnings has increased so heavily that it is hard to see how it can be increased still further, the system is threatening to become unworkable.

When a system that was created with the aim of providing security against the risks of working life and in the economic forces itself becomes a source of insecurity, it is time to consider radical changes in the direction of social policy.

At times the moral risk of an unparadoxically disregarded social security institution overdoes it may create the very risks it was set up to combat. This has been the case in regard to unemployment benefits. Also, too little attention has been paid to the fact that the emphasis on security will impair the labour mobility we should be increasing if we master the intensifying struggle that is taking place.

In any country the attempt to rely on security as a conveyor belt has been no more than a delusion. The efficiency of social policy in areas where genuine existence has been lost.

Official attitudes are less important than the technical in the pursuit of given goals. What is relevant are the scales for social policy and the measures taken. We social security system which is functioning even when economy is going through lean times.

Fight against inflation comes first

At the top of the list is the need to fight inflation. This is the first battle which social policy is being asked to fight. Inflation not only erodes the real value of what is achieved. To use index-linked wages to attack the symptoms of inflation is like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

At the source of the fall in the money is everywhere, as it has been, the public authorities. Their colossal deficits. Until the balance of the situation changes. This will be a painful process. For it can only be achieved if claims made on it will have to be reduced. It will have to reach the point where the "natural" growth rate of expenditure will have to be out of tax revenues (and the "natural" growth of those revenues will have to be reduced). The state must be confined to using of real public capital. Everything to do with deficits that could hamper the financial health or give fresh inflation would have to be abandoned.

Urgent, from the social view, is to get rid of unemployment. But with the type of unemployment we mainly face at the moment is investment in the production of competitive products is being held up mainly by the burden of an excessively high real wage, which—if the structure of production is not just not compatible with employment.

Opening the monetary system in good Keynesian fashion, internal inflation unleashed could destroy the competitive international markets that is so important to the level of employment at home and to pay for

the speed at which unemployment is reduced is crucially dependent on the trade unions' wages. If we are to return to a level of stronger demand for our companies, the advance

in wages must not fully exhaust the advances in productivity which have been achieved. This applies irrespective of whether the company is in private or public hands.

The trade unions must change their priorities: instead of redistribution being the aim, the main goal must be solidarity with those who are no longer or not yet in work. Precisely because wages have the economic weight that they do, the wage earner's contribution to combating inflation cannot be smaller.

By contrast, measures to ration scarce jobs, such as are being suggested in West Germany for example (shortening of working hours without a corresponding reduction in pay, early retirement) must be considered a counsel of despair. Such measures result in little fresh recruitment and cause a string of troubles for employers. And, above all, not a single new job is created.

Lowering the rate of inflation and increasing the level of employment have the beneficial side-effects of reducing demands on the social security system and making it easier to finance the system. All the same, such improvements do not remove the need for reform of the social security sector.

A radical study needed for change in course

One cannot escape the fact that the first need is for a radical study of the required change in course. A well-constructed system of social security benefits is one of the pillars on which social stability rests. Nevertheless, security is not everything. Other pillars are the entrepreneurial spirit, willingness to work hard and effectively and adaptability to the technical and economic forces to which we must have recourse if we are to improve productivity.

A social policy which penalizes individual performance and attacks mobility in the long run sawing off the branch on which it sits, economically speaking. Paradoxical as it may sound, social stability in the final analysis only attainable when there is individual productivity and flexibility.

For this reason it is irrational, over the medium term, to go on pouring resources into the existing benefit channels. For the individual, as for the population as a whole, there is greater benefit if the emphasis is switched to an active social policy, namely to greater investment in occupational training and improvement, better opportunities for labour mobility and improved working conditions.

In the pensions sphere proper the technique of collective social security is not everything. Other means of provision are private insurance and individual savings in all their forms. In West Germany these are encouraged by the state through a comprehensive system of premiums and by the trade unions through negotiating contributions from the employers towards employees' savings.

The advantage of these methods for the individual increases in importance with the general level of earnings and the stage of development of the welfare state. Not a universal stew of security for everyone but more pluralism is the order of the day.

This presupposes that the politicians, in an act of self-discipline and also for the sake of the maturity of the citizen, will finally establish an upper limit for the proportion of an employee's earnings that is to be taken in tax and contributions; this limit would serve as the datum for the necessary adjustments to the social security system.

In the future, therefore, increases in public expenditure could only be considered to the extent that they fell within the limits set by the growth of earnings for the period and the resultant automatic increase in revenue from taxes and contributions, or were made possible by successful rationalization within the system.

The opportunity for the latter should not be underestimated. Collective welfare institutions usually go hand in hand with high administrative costs and the superstructure of officialdom is inclined to favour the roundabout way of doing things.

Reform and stabilization of the social security institutions should follow three guidelines. First, compulsory membership should be confined to those employees who are in need of public assistance. Opening social security to the higher paid and the self-employed merely dilutes its distributive effect.

Second, there should be close adherence to the principles of social insurance. The introduction of a flexible age limit for retirement pensions, for example, is certainly a good thing; but from the technical point of view it must be applied with actuarial deductions for each year's pension drawn prematurely. Politicians who enact benefits that operate contrary to insurance principles—a minimum pension, for instance—have to finance them from taxation.

Third, to curb the rapid growth of expenditure in the health sector, people should be subject to an appropriate insurance excess, particularly in connection with the consumption of such things as drugs and medical services.

It should not be objected that this constitutes a "dismantling of the welfare state". What is involved is neither more nor less than safeguarding resources in less prosperous economic times.

Always out of balance over our state of well-being

In almost all the industrial countries, expenditure on health, pensions, unemployment benefits and family allowances is rising at a faster rate than production: at an annual average of 15 per cent to 16 per cent since 1966 in some countries, such as Belgium, against 11 per cent for gnp. The rate has actually accelerated since 1970 and especially since 1972, with the annual increase in the EEC running at between 15 per cent and 24 per cent (5.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent in constant prices) according to the member states statistics.

Health expenditure has generally shown the highest rates of increase with record peaks for hospital treatment in the region of 25 per cent to 35 per cent a year. The recent economic crisis and the desire of European countries to provide better compensation for the unemployed just when the number of employed paying in contributions is falling and production is in decline have increased still further the burden of social expenditure on the economy.

Although this inexorable rise in expenditure is common to all nine EEC countries, there are areas where policy differs widely on benefits and on the means by which they are financed and the results fall far short of the harmonization aimed at in the Treaty of Rome. These divergences are attributable to the very different national priorities in the various countries, with West Germany, for instance, placing the accent on the elderly while France has concentrated on the family. They are also attributable to the different ages of the insurance schemes and to the disparities between standards of living in the member states and their relative wealth.

The proportions of total expenditure allocated to the various types of benefit and national average per capita payments of benefits, expressed in units of account, still vary widely, as witness the following figures (which take no account of the level of the cost of living in the various countries).

Pensions are largest budget item

In 1975 as in 1970, West Germany headed the EEC table (with 1,415 units of account per capita against 645 five years earlier), followed closely by Denmark (1,387 against 629), while France fell from third position in 1970 (526) to sixth in 1975 (986), overtaken by The Netherlands (1,277 against 501 in 1970), Belgium (1,107 against 484) and Luxembourg (1,106 against 520). France has nevertheless remained well ahead of Britain (578 against 351), Italy (557 against 320) and Ireland (345 against 174).

In all the member states, the largest item in the social budget is old age pensions (36 per cent in Italy, The Netherlands and Denmark, roughly 40 per cent in France, Belgium and West Germany, 47 per cent in Britain and 55 per cent in Luxembourg), followed by health services (from 22 per cent to 30 per cent), which take a much higher share than family allowances, except in France, Belgium and Denmark where the gap is narrower. Apart from the very sharp general increase in expenditure on unemployment benefits throughout Europe (at rates of 30 per cent to 40 per cent a year since 1970) and the rise in pensions in Italy and Britain, spending on health insurance has made the most rapid advance in the Community as a whole (at annual rates of 15 per cent to 24 per cent since 1970).

What accounts for this explosive expansion of the social services? Since the end of the Second World War pressure from the trade unions and the influence of socialist or Social and Christian Democratic policies have prevailed upon Europe's governments to make constant improvements to their social security institutions. Whereas they were originally intended exclusively for employed workers and in many instances for the least advantaged categories only, the insurance or welfare systems have gradually been expanded to include the population as a whole.

In 1955, 60 per cent, 64 per cent and 80 per cent of the Italian, French and West German populations respectively were covered by compensation or reimbursement schemes, but today between 91 per cent and 98 per cent of these populations enjoy cover against the risks of sickness or old age.

In recent years, even in 1976, further developments have been introduced: family allowances for the first child in West Germany and Britain, unemployment benefit for the self-employed in Denmark and Luxembourg, sickness benefit for the self-employed in The Netherlands, health insurance for those serving prison sentences in West Germany and France and, finally, almost everywhere improvement of pensions or the reduction of certain categories of workers' retirement age to below 65.

In addition to these causes of increases in social security payments, there have been other factors—sociological, economic and demographic—which have helped to push up costs: increasingly systematic recourse to modernized hospitals, the extraordinary but costly development of medical technology, but at the same time a runaway trend towards indiscriminate and inadequately supervised consumption of health supplies and services.

The increase in the number of doctors' surgeries is not unrelated to this attitude; 20 years ago a visit to the doctor cost the price of a consultation and a few drugs whereas today a consultation with a general practitioner triggers off a series of



laboratory analyses and one or more appointments with specialists.

There are other factors pushing up expenditure, this time the ill-effects of the febrile life we lead in our industrial societies. Whereas tuberculosis costs each subscriber to the Belgian system less than 10 years ago, the price of mental illness is rising (262 Belgian francs a head compared with 99 francs in 1966). In this same country the number of disabled doubled between 1958 and 1974—as a result of accidents occurring not only at work, but also on the road, during leisure activities.

Abuses? Waste? A tribute levied by modern society? These explanations are inadequate. Some of them are even beside the point. One of the main reasons for the rise in expenditure is the ageing of the European population, a factor which will be increasingly influential as time passes. In addition to the pensions paid to the elderly, there is the cost of medical care which is between two and three times as high as for a working adult.

In Belgium, the proportion of medical insurance expenditure accounted for by the non-working population has risen from 38.5 per cent in 1966 to 47.1 per cent in 1976; in France, 80 per cent of health benefits go to 20 per cent of the insured population, most of them children and elderly people. And the non-working proportion of the population will rise in the years to come.

But whether it is willed by the national authorities, justified by solidarity between the working and non-working populations or prompted by a somewhat irresponsible state of mind, this expenditure, by rising more quickly than resources, is and will continue to be, a permanent cause of financial imbalance, even if the years

to 1980 see a lessening of its weight in relation to production compared with the exceptional year of 1975 (but an increase compared with 1974). The Italian mutual societies are said to be running at a collective deficit of 300,000 lire and the largest of them, INAM, which has three million members, admitted last November that it was no longer in a position to reimburse the 46,000 doctors on its books.

In Belgium, the sickness insurance deficit is expected to be 12,500m francs by 1978 and, according to some estimates, 58,000m francs by 1980. The West German pension funds are expected to be showing a deficit of DM 700,000m to DM 80,000m by 1980 and specialists in Brussels have come up with a calculation demonstrating that, at the current 20 per cent rate of increase in health costs, German contributions would rise to the same level as wages by 1985. In France, according to the latest forecasts, the health insurance deficit will be 50,000m francs by 1985 in the absence of any change in the legislation.

How have the members of the Community reacted over recent years and—more important—what policy are they going to adopt in the future to eliminate all these deficits? With mixed success, they have all mounted campaigns against inflation and unemployment, and nothing solid can be achieved in the social sphere without a sound economic position. In France, for instance, it has been calculated that a one point variation up or down in the number of employed workers corresponds to resources or losses of 2,000m francs.

But also there have been ad hoc measures everywhere in Europe: the reduction of family allowances in Denmark, the curbing of pension increases in West Germany, the freeing or re-

duction of medicine prices in Belgium, West Germany and France, recourse to pay restraint for doctors, public subsidies and a general increase in contributions through the raising of rates or ceilings or even, as in Belgium in 1974, the removal of the ceiling for benefits in kind.

But it is also admitted everywhere that these measures are insufficient or merely papering over the cracks. Some harsher critics claim that "instead of chipping away here and there, a proper policy on health should be adopted".

What can be done in practice? In some countries employers' organizations are calling for a return to the liberal system of insurance, with all citizens receiving a minimum level of cover and households having to decide for themselves whether to meet health costs out of their budgets or subscribe to insurance schemes. But this type of solution involves the enormous danger of increasing social inequality, since only the better off and better educated would set up or join private schemes.

The trade unions and many politicians favourable to socialization take the opposite view, believing that the future of the social security system is one of development coupled with adjustments involving higher contributions from the beneficiaries, notably through increased recourse to taxation. In fact, the best informed observers believe that the level of taxation and social contributions has not yet quite reached its limit and the West Germans, in a forward planning document, have announced an increase in contributions by 1979.

However, these same observers make no secret of their belief that saturation point will be reached shortly, particularly if the shift in the western world's growth rate to the benefit of the Third World is maintained. At Community headquarters and in some governments, the firm opinion is that increasing revenue or curbing consumption of medical services and supplies will only be marginally effective, and only in the short run.

What is needed is radical action to reduce costs and redirect expenditure in hospitals, health centres and general practice. But other more draconian or restrictive solutions will become necessary. Choices will have to be made between pensions, family allowances and health, while it will perhaps also be necessary to ask whether the maintenance of established entitlements insisted upon by all socio-occupational categories "is not becoming an obstacle to the campaign against poverty".

The first priority, however, is to make a departure from the approach adopted in several Community countries under which the various budgets of the state and the social institutions are considered in isolation and make an overall examination of the complete pattern of society's expenditure.

Jean-Pierre Dumont

PUSHING BUTTONS ISN'T ENOUGH

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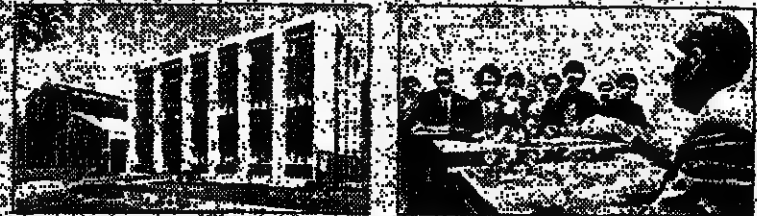
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Free trade is main aim

Herr Haferkamp, the new Commission has given you responsibility for the Community's external affairs—to the surprise of many observers. Where do you see the main emphasis of your work in the coming year?

The Community's external affairs are largely economic in character. In the past, as the Commission member responsible for the Community's internal economic policy, I have endeavoured to avert protectionist measures. We were successful in this. During the recession we were able to maintain the common market. Safeguarding and expanding free trade within and outside the Community was and still is my main aim. My work in external affairs is—if you like—a continuation and a turning outwards of my previous efforts within the Community.

The climate in international trade relations has deteriorated. Should the Community revise its largely liberal foreign trade policy in order to safeguard jobs?

We must liberalize world trade; in other words, we must do all we can to avert protectionism. A wave of protectionism would bring with it the danger of a flood of defensive measures and counter-measures, would weaken the world economy and increase unemployment. Closing markets against each other is no way to solve the unemployment problem. We do not need restriction of world trade but, on the contrary, expansion. Because of the Community's strong integration into the world economy, open frontiers and markets are of particular importance to us.

In trade with, above all, Japan and the United States there are growing imbalances to the disadvantage of the European Community. Will the Commission be taking a harder line with Washington?

I am convinced that the interests of the Community, the United States and Japan, and indeed all the industrialized nations, are basically the same. There is no question of one taking a harder line against another. We are all in the same boat and must act accordingly. Any difficulties we may have that perhaps place us in opposition to each other must be discussed openly and overcome by joint effort. I am confident that we will succeed in this.

Will the European Community succeed in persuading the Americans and Japanese to discipline themselves in their foreign trade policies in order to protect jobs within the EEC? Will the Community be able to hold back the flood of protectionism? Wilhelm Hadler talks to Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the European Commission who has just been given responsibility for the Community's external affairs. Herr Haferkamp was born in Duisburg in 1923. After studying economics and social sciences he became a trade union official and later divisional head on the main executive body of the German Trade Union Federation. He was deputy chairman of the SPD parliamentary group in North Rhine-Westphalia.



Attempts to ward off the Japanese export invasion of the European market have so far been only partially successful. What steps does the Commission plan to take if, for example, the talks on limiting shipbuilding capacities finally break down?

We have already had some success in our negotiations with Japan. I am thinking of the steel sector. We also see chances that it will become easier to export motor vehicles to Japan for an extended transitional period after the very strict Japanese environmental protection regulations come into force. On February 7 and 8 we start negotiations on improving the opportunities for exporting processed agricultural products to Japan. We shall be making other attempts in many different sectors to open up the Japanese market to products from the Community.

On the difficult question of shipbuilding we have already made a certain amount of progress together. But it is certainly not enough. And I should add that the Community does not remain inactive when it finds that the Japanese export offensive is failing to observe the normal rules of competition. In this connection it has instituted anti-dumping proceedings against Japanese ball-bearing manufacturers.

On the whole I would say that our Japanese partners are just as convinced as I am that the growing trend of disequilibrium in our trade relations cannot go on and that we must solve this problem in a way that gives no encouragement to protectionism. The Community countries still refuse to recognize the Brussels Commission as a negotiating partner. In these circumstances how can the Community's relations with the East European states be strengthened?

The Community has proposed to the Comecon countries that there should be talks on trade matters on the basis of mutual trust. I am thinking of our proposals of November 1974 and November 1976. Now the ball is in their court. We are not concerned with being recognized as a negotiating partner. That the Community as such is responsible for negotiations of this kind is a reality. The Community and Comecon have different structures. Talking with each other is a learning process. We shall make gradual, but continuous, progress.

The European Community is often criticized for concentrating too much on developing close relations with the Mediterranean countries and the former colonies in Africa. Does the Commission plan to start an intensive dialogue with Latin America?

The Community's development policy is not merely regional but world wide. I am thinking of general preferences, customs duty reductions for tropical products, and financial aid and food aid to non-associated developing countries. We shall intensify the worldwide policy of cooperation. In this connection such an important continent as Latin America naturally deserves particular attention.

The international tariff negotiations within Gatt have not yet got to the heart of the matter at issue. In view of the uncertain prospects for the development of the international economy can European industry hope for better export opportunities?

The Gatt talks must lead to a further opening of markets and expansion of world trade. The closer we come to this goal and succeed in obtaining concrete results in the Gatt negotiations, the better are the prospects for European industry to establish its position in the world economy. A further liberalization of world trade will mean new opportunities for Europe's industry and new challenges as well, of course. But I have every confidence in the quality and inventiveness of our industry, both as regards the firms themselves and as regards their workers.

The Community's influence on Third World countries seems to be stronger than the chances of an inner strengthening of the Community itself. Does your move from economic and financial affairs to external affairs mean that you see more likelihood of political success for yourself as commissioner for external affairs than in your previous department?

That move was approved by the Commission unanimously. As far as political success is concerned, this is not a personal matter for the individual Commissioner member but a matter for the Commission itself as a Community institution. This success depends on how far the member states are prepared to give Community interests at least the same weight as their own national interests.

Success is sometimes dependent only on whether the member states are prepared to reach a decision instead of continually postponing decision-making. I have the impression that the pressure to reach a decision is often more evident in the sphere of foreign affairs than it is in connexion with many internal matters.

Saints and sinners

Europe, fortunately, is made up of men as well as matter. Every month certain people attract attention either because they are advancing Community ideas or actions, or because they are retarding them. Based on the criteria of European solidarity and a little subjectivity, we will seek to pinpoint those who have graced or dis-graced the Community.

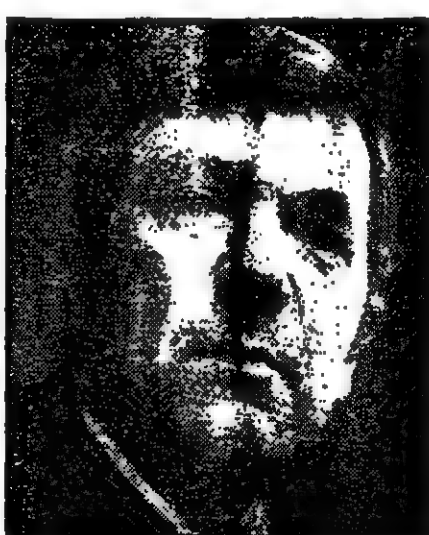


Giorgio Amendola

The reason why, unlike their French comrades, the Italian communists support European elections and European unity was explained by Giorgio Amendola, a member of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) management since 1943, and president of the communist group in the European parliament at Strasbourg. Giorgio Amendola is a confirmed European, for both political and personal reasons. "My father," he said, "died in exile at Carnes in 1926, after the Fascist aggression. In 1931, when I left Italy secretly, France gave me shelter too. I went back to France, an exile, and lived there from 1937 to 1943, having in the meantime married Germaine, a French girl who joined me during my banishment to the island of Ponza. I took part in the French Resistance. But it was through talking with that great thinker, Romain Rolland, that I came to understand the reasons for a united Europe."

Giorgio Amendola has found his gift for writing at 70, and not only political works. *Una scelta di vita*, the first volume of his memoirs, is a best-seller in Italy. It won the *Premio Prato* and is in the running for the *Libro dell'Anno*, the Book of the Year award.

"We Italian communists," he explained, "support the decision to elect a European Parliament, even though the absence of one simple electoral law, based on a proportional representation system, stands in the way of obtaining a democratic result. However, the expression of the people's will may provide impetus for the democratic transformation of the European Community, giving it an internal structure consistent with the political autonomy of member countries."



René Haby

Praise be for the wisdom of M René Haby, the French Minister of Education. Had it not been for the vigilance displayed by the minister and his department, France's candidates in the 16-19 age group for the twenty-fourth European schools day essay competition last month would have been asked to write on the most explosive subject imaginable: direct elections to the European Parliament.

"The citizens of the member states of the European Community are going to elect the European Parliament by universal suffrage. What is the significance of this for your country? Analyse and discuss: the adjustments which the political parties in your country will have to make in view of these first elections..." The new European dimension of each voter's political responsibilities...

This "fire-ship" was perhaps judged worthy of an early unsung prophet of Europe, one Friedrich Nietzsche. It was certainly premature at least. To avoid prejudging the opinion of the French constitutional council, which had not yet stated its position, or the parliamentary vote on the subject, the words "are going to" were changed a week before the competition to "may" and all reference to the adjustments which the parties "will have to make" was deleted.

But it was still too much. Fearful lest the subject, even in its watered down form, should lead to incidents in France's schools where political feeling is already running at fever pitch, the minister recommended that it should be abandoned. The decision to drop it was announced two days before the date of the competition and, although it was retained in 11 other European countries, the French candidates wrote on another subject and on a later day.

O fragile European ideal! Who is the evil genius who stifled you so abruptly in the inkwells of France's schools whence you should have sprung like the genie of oriental

Does not the position taken up by French communists, who oppose elections, damage Europeanism and Europeanism?

I am president of the European Communist Group, but I am explaining here the position of the PCI, which is different—on precisely this question of the elections—from the position of the French communists. That the not cause any surprise. Each Communist Party follows an independent line, depending on how it views interests of its own country. Europeanism—as it is improperly called—reflects this mutual respect. European unity is in a crisis position. Why?

Because the advanced degree economic integration that characterizes Europe is not matched by structures within the Community capable of achieving a Community policy independent of external pressures and the manipulation of multinational groups. Decisions are taken by Council of Ministers, where strongest countries—today that is Germany—are able to impose their own policies. France, at present, trying unsuccessfully to remain a member of a governing body works against the interests of weakest countries. How can this question of divergent interests be improved?

Sovereign states cannot, on their own, solve problems such as the inflation, multinational banks, the sources of energy. Dividing the countries in the European Community are subject to heavy pressure. France and Germany have a number of occasions been exponents of American interests especially where energy is concerned (note the failure of the North-Atlantic dialogue). To combat these pressures a new power is necessary, which is the expression of the people's will and this new power should be capable of stimulating social change. Social Democrats, Liberals, Christians, Democrats are going to the European elections as united groups...

The time is still not ripe for creation of European parties. Any you have only to look at the differences between the British Labour Party and the German Social Democrats, between Strauss's Christian Democrats and the Italian Christian Democrats in order to understand artificial character of certain movements, that have purely an engineering value.

These are the views of Amendola, a man whose lot it has been to be involved, as a bystander or player, in the political and cultural events of the past 50 years.

Lamberto F.

Haves can no longer disregard have-nots

The population imbalance between the developed and developing countries is going to increase. The median version of the most recent United Nations population projections expects increases of 200 million in the developed countries and 2,000 million in the developing countries by the year 2000. If this is confirmed by events the developing countries will have 79 per cent of the world population, a prospect suggesting serious political consequences, although it is not easy at this stage to offer any accurate prediction of what these may be.

Almost two years after the World Food Conference, an assessment can be made of what has been achieved to date in the main areas of international cooperation aimed at implementing the resolutions adopted.

In food aid, the target of 10 million tons has almost been reached (the actual figure being nine million tons), but bilateral aid continues to predominate. Another unsatisfactory feature is the ambiguity characterizing this aid. This takes two forms: first, even where it is inspired by strictly humanitarian considerations, it is always partial and parcel of the political relations between states; second, even where it does benefit the target groups aimed at (generally the most disadvantaged categories or the people of a disaster-affected region), it inevitably influences conditions on the local foodstuffs market, so that it is difficult to prevent it from exerting an unfavourable effect on local agricultural production in the medium or long term.

In the area of security of supplies, negotiations are progressing slowly or not at all. It is clear that some countries need to increase their exports of certain agricultural products, if only to finance their purchases of others. India, for instance, stepped up its sugar exports from Rs113m to Rs3,390m between 1972-73 and 1974-75 while its imports of cereals rose from Rs808m to Rs7,638m over the same period.

The pressure on the developed countries to allow farm produce greater access to their markets is therefore considerable and becoming increasingly difficult to resist. Hence the mounting pressure on the CAP. Under the Lomé Convention, the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were allowed quotas for exports to the EEC of 350,000 tons for sugar and 45,000 tons for beef. In United Nations negotiations on primary products, including sugar, have been agreed upon in principle.

If the IFPRI projections quoted above prove accurate, the developing countries will need to double their imports of cereals in the coming decade. To avoid this need, the countries in deficit would have to double their overall food production growth rate, raising it to 4 per cent a year against the 2 per cent averaged over the past 15 years and even less recently. Were the rate to remain at the lower level, the deficit countries' shortage could reach 200 million tons annually. Having spent the past year in India, I do not think that an improvement in the growth rate is out of the question; however, it is very unlikely that it will be

doubled and, unfortunately, the possibility of a fall cannot be discounted. These observations should suffice to convince Europe's farmers of the importance of the social role which they can play in the service of humanity.

As well as the developing countries, the leading exporters of farm produce in the developed world (United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) are also bringing pressure to bear. The CAP has long been a bone of contention in economic and political relations between the United States and Europe. More recently, the protectionism of the CAP has been the subject of increasingly bitter protest from the Australians.

While it is admittedly easy to show up the self-interest in these pleadings in the cause of free trade, the fact remains that the pressure is building up relentlessly and the CAP could be the sufferer in the global bargaining getting under way in the North-South talks in Paris or the Gatt negotiations.

It would be demagogic to proclaim that the legitimate interests of European farmers are going to be sacrificed in the name of less legitimate interests which have more powerful means at their disposal. A compromise safeguarding the essential interests of European farmers seems feasible. This would be to allow access to the European market for agricultural produce from the tropical countries.

Most of the products in question offer little or no competition to products from the temperate countries. In the case of those products which are competitive, the quantities involved are small measured against the enormous requirements of the developing countries. Granted, these countries are not always solvent and requirements which cannot be paid for do not represent demand. But there is reason both to fear and hope that the development of international relations will not allow these needs to continue to go unmet. The developed countries will have to increase the volume of their food aid and financial aid. There is also reason to expect that the growing political importance of the developing countries in world affairs will enable them to find the economic resources with which to accelerate their development and so finance at least part of the food requirements of the poorest categories.

It is no longer possible for the western world to adopt the ostrich's posture and disregard the fate of three-quarters of humanity as it has done until recently. Obstinate defence of the CAP is unlikely to carry much weight under the prevailing conditions, with pressure from both the developing countries and the exporters of farm produce in the developed world.

European farmers, therefore, have reason to fear the consequences of the bargaining taking place at world-wide level. But they also have grounds for hoping that the developing countries are going to import foodstuffs in increasing quantities. It is no doubt going to be difficult to finance such imports, but what is the alternative?

Michel Petit
adviser on agronomy,
Ford Foundation in India

Brussels backstage Le Roy le veult

For months the corridors of Brussels had echoed to the cry: "the British are coming". It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that panic reigned in some quarters. Who knew the perils of which Albion might be capable when dressed in the double authority of the presidency of the European Commission and the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers?

Well, the British are here, and after some initial alarms life looks like continuing much as before. Mr Roy Jenkins—quickly dubbed le Roi Jean XV (a play on an exaggerated French pronunciation of his name)—is safely enthroned at the Berlaymont, while Mr Anthony Crosland, belying his reputation for being somewhat less than engaged by the European scene, has also made a well-received debut.

The first British presidency has merely added an extra touch of spice to the jockeying for position which usually accompanies the quadrennial reappointment of the Commission. The flavour of the times is best conveyed by the report that the members of the Cabinet, or private office, of one retiring commissioner passed the entire contents of their files through a shredding-machine so loath were they to let them fall into the hands of their successors.

Mr Jenkins's baptism of fire came with the allocation of Portfolios on the long and confused night between January 6 and January 7. Surprisingly enough, the marching of men to jobs which finally emerged makes a lot more sense than that of the previous Commission. How much this should be attributed to beginner's luck or good judgment is not quite clear, but it seems that the six months Mr Jenkins was given to seek advice and prepare the ground were not entirely wasted.

The exigencies of national pride could not be ignored. Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp was hardly the obvious choice for the External Affairs post. Indeed, Mr Jenkins did not want him in the Commission. But with the key economic and monetary portfolio going to French insistence to Mr Jenkins's predecessor, the well-qualified M François-Xavier Ortoli, the Germans had an almost cast-iron claim to one of the other top posts.

Unavoidable horse-trading of this kind apart, Mr Jenkins is generally credited with some shrewd realignments of Commission jobs. It makes sense, for example, to have given one commissioner, Signor Antonio Giorli, the Italian Socialist, the task of coordinating the Community's various funds—the social and regional funds as well as the agricultural fund's so-called "guidance" section, which is used to help to finance the modernization of farm structures.

Likewise, few in Brussels would question the wisdom of fusing responsibility for the EEC's internal market (the dismantling of barriers to trade) and stewardship of industrial policy into a single portfolio entrusted to the capable hands of Belgium's Viscount Etienne Davignon. Putting the Community's energy and research policies under the single charge of Herr Guido Brunner, the second German Commissioner, was also a sensible piece of rationalization.

So far, the new president has had little time to impress a personal style on the Commission's complex administrative and bureaucratic machine.

Michael Hornsby

legend? His name is M René Haby. And for matters to come to this, one of the two demons inhabiting soul had to triumph over the other.

The loser was the demon of reform and progress. And yet M Haby, stranger to reform. Since he took office on May 28, 1974, his re of the educational system has been the burning issue of the day. Pastly debated, often derided, nevertheless going ahead.

Was M Haby alarmed at the prospect of letting France's schoolchildren loose on the topic of another whose implications are admittedly beyond their comprehension? But Europe stands for progress, change, movement of men and ideas, and it that this man of action—but that most European of lands, Lorraine—whose career has been one of perpetual motion should not wish much, and more, for his younger

M Haby's other demon, the persuasive of the two on this occasion speaks on behalf of order. Minister of Education has little for rowdiness or anything of a smacks of revolution. The rule that a telephone call from a headmaster expressing misgivings enough to get the incriminated subject reviewed and finally deleted tells its own story, even if it is founded. But it would be near-truth to suggest that M Haby's daunting visions of MPs bagging desks and ministerial portfolios across the classroom.

Michel Kaj

Europa

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NOT THE WAY TO HELP TENANTS

members of his party go, after Shore has fairly open about the private landlord. does not expect that sector a market simply to wither and he is prepared to con- sider not all landlords are takers. In the nature of things difficult for Labour to admit that his party's es towards the private have done much harm— conventional demography in Labour movement is too ful for that—but he has the next best thing in set- up a review of the working e legislation in that field. questionnaire asking for as that was published yes- raises many radical ideas, sort incongruously with uful gloss in its preface ing that the Government is ed to entertain any pro- even ones that it had usly rejected so long as maintain the general ple of security of tenure e tenant in his home".

THE PRICE OF AMERICAN WASTE

the weather that has ht the American energy to the surface. Energy tion has always, how- been more profligate in the States than in any other. Houses and offices are in winter and cooler in er than anywhere else. cans use larger, less effi- cars than any other people. while, especially under the t of the 1973 oil price there was some shift n toward the compact car, is better fuel performance, he fashion was short-lived. Detroit is once again pro- and selling gasoline "as it did in pre-Opec

decades this profligacy was ter of purely domestic con- for the United States was vely self-sufficient in from indigenous sources. the 1950s onwards, how- American energy consump- has steadily outstripped tic production. This wide- ap has been filled by a, first from Canada and iels, but now in the main the Middle East. The unces, economic and al, of this shift have been nd. ident Nixon reacted to the oil price rises and the evidence of Opec's ul power with the much sed Project Independence. a was to restore the States to complete self- in energy by the mid-

Using Greek

R. E. Witz is good to know in today's tes that in Britain the teach-Greek is now on the mend. Cambridge project can stop in the classics on this side, use of us who have laboured cause both as schoolmasters university teachers will the miracle. why "the kiss of life for a language"? Ask the many here in London whose lar is Greek when they have about that. Walk the streets agey and gaze at the shop s with all the Greek names. ie Orthodox churches up and Britain and listen to the

it about time to recognize e language now in need of really lives? And on the the people (many of them our misdi) call them- selves, as did Plato and st. Why not consult them as we apparently do about thods of learning classical

bury and Rome

mon Gordon Albion e Roman-Anglian Agreed nt on Authority is neither or less than the other two Eucharist and the Ministry t should have come first!). I number of prelates and ans on either side, and d by both Rome and Canter- as issued a document on they agree but which does mit their Churches as such- statement open to discussion as already begun in your and will, without doubt, as long as you allow it, main argument will be principle and practice. iganics and Catholics believe's promise to send the Holy f Truth to "guide you into

1974 Rent Act is still a matter of hot dispute. Agencies like Shelter, working close to the tenants whom the Act was designed to help, insist that it has caused a sharp decline in the number of families complaining of harassment and eviction. No effort to solve the problem that does not take full account of the exploitations that often occurred at the lower end of the market in times of acute shortage deserves to succeed. But these gains have been made at a heavy cost.

The harm that has been done is less easy to demonstrate: there are no official statistics of accommodation that has not been offered for rent but which might have been in other circum- stances (though the results of a survey undertaken as part of the present exercise may give some idea). But it is a matter of observa- tion that a lively domestic market in furnished flats has become largely a service available to visitors from abroad. The number of private dwellings in London alone left empty for three months or more has risen to 60,000—and many of them stay empty for years on end. It is fair to assume that many of them are empty because of the rent laws. Short of requisitioning, it is academic to debate whether these homes represent waste from misconceived legislation or from the exploitation of private ownership. They should be used—and the growth of squatting, which involves people with little to hope for from the council housing department or the building societies, is largely a sign of how the natural cus-

tomers of a healthy system of private rent have been driven outside the legitimate market. The 1974 Act itself, extending security of tenure to the furnished tenant, only completed a long train of legislation con- cerned with the landlord only as potential oppressor. There are many clogs on the easy renting of housing that fall easily inside Mr. Shore's proviso about security of tenure—the cumbersome processes that a landlord entitled to repossess must go through, the limited categories of cases in which special circum- stances are held to justify letting for a limited period, the complicated accretion of laws and cus- toms governing the fixing of rents, and so on. The failure in its present form of the rent allowance scheme (taken up by only a third of those entitled to it) is a decisive bar to the crea- tion of a rational rent system.

The consultation paper is lamentably cool about arrange- ments by which councils act as agents for the renting of private houses. But it is the excessive weight given to the tenant's security in all circumstances that most limits the usefulness of the private rented sector. As at every other level, our housing policy heaps benefits, often irrelevant, on the incumbent tenant at the expense of those who seek to become tenants themselves. A major eas- ing of the housing shortage could be achieved by drastically widen- ing the opportunities for a land- lord to enter into an agreement with a tenant without signing his property away for a lifetime.

whom it was promised, in council together (beginning with Nicaea, 325) and, very rarely, by their suc- cessors alone, though never without the fullest consultation with his fellow bishops.

Such proclamations on faith and morals) proclaimed by the Bishops (of Rome and the rest) are accepted by Catholics as guaranteed by the Holy Spirit as true without doubt. In our theological jargon, "infalli- bility" is true.

Most Anglicans would accept Conciliar and/or Papal pronounc- ements on basic Christian doctrines as "infallibly" true, because they are founded in Holy Scripture. But where there is little or no Biblical support (eg. the Marian beliefs of Catholics) will be our "agree to disagree without being disagree- able". In 1950 the Assumption was described as a mere assumption.

An Anglican priest friend told me he believed it but not because the Pope said so. I said that was the only reason why I did. GORDON ALBION, St Edward's, Guildford, Surrey, January 25.

Memorandum, as far as I am aware, was not regularly open to the public, and therefore not very well known, but there are many more houses which are both open and well known, the cost of maintaining which far exceeds any revenue they may raise from their visitors. Because the income tax system is designed to deal with commercial

business operations, loss relief is not available unless a house open to the public can demonstrate that it is a good chance of making an overall profit. Unfortunately there are only very few houses whose geographical position, size, or additional attractions enable them both to draw and handle the enormous crowds needed to generate sufficient income to satisfy this commercial test.

At a recent much of the main- tenance of historic houses open to the public has to be financed out of the owner's net income. With the tax rates at their present level it does not really matter how much an owner may earn, this sum is unlikely to be sufficient and he is forced to draw annually on his diminishing sources of capital. This is a situation which cannot continue indefinitely.

Where a historic house and its contents are being maintained and enjoyed by the general public at no cost to the State, it is surely not unreasonable to ask that main- tenance costs should be offset against income before tax. The plain facts are that unless some such relief is granted, more and more of Britain's heritage will follow Memorandum and will not be availing its owner's death to do so.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WATSON, Rockingham Castle, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, January 21.

Polish workers' funds From Dr G. C. Steel Sir, We learn from the able letter of Professor Charles Taylor (Lex- ington, January 20) of the plight of the striking and protesting Polish workers whose defence funds have been confiscated by the Govern- ment.

May we ask when the arch- defender of such injustices, the ineffable Mr. Tom Tugend, will call for a ban on all postal communi- cations to Poland? Or are his con- scientious prayers and subtle selective for the ordinary person with a straightforward sense of justice to appreciate? I am, etc, G. C. STEEL, 14 Rochester, Gt. SW15, January 22.

Coal in the Rhondia From Mr Harry Calvert Sir, I follow the debate about coal in the Vale of Belvoir, which is, no doubt, a beautiful stretch of countryside, with some impetu- ous. Although it may surprise your readers to hear it, the Rhondia Valley is also beautiful, yet its further despoliation excites no com- mune whatever.

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situations no amount of simulation exercises can be a substitute for the understanding which comes only from having personally shared in the suffering.

The Fulton Report recommended attachments to industry—but the rule remains essentially an adminis- trative one: it rarely, if ever, en- tails discovery. Life is like that at the sharp end. Three govern- ment ministries have accepted an offer made by my own organiza- tion, Community Service Volunteers, to release—experimentally, for a period—the first place of half a dozen—some of their staff to tackle at ground level the problems they have been accustomed to deal with departmentally.

The first of these, a higher ex- ecutive officer from the Home Office, started work two weeks ago in a rooming house, based on a small house with local and central government and industry, so as to mobilize resources on their behalf. The one ministry which has so far declined to participate is—sadly but not altogether surprisingly—the Depart- ment of Education and Science.

Yours etc, ALEC DICKSON, 19 Blenheim Road, W4.

Bath works extension From Mr B. G. Horstmann Sir, I refer to an article which you published on January 29 concern- ing my company's planning applica- tion for an extension of our works and offices and a car park imme- diately adjoining our principal fac- tory in Bath.

The article suggested that there was evidence of collusion between the Bath Chamber of Commerce, Council representatives and my company. I vigorously repudiate the suggestion that there has been any collusion at all. The company's plan- ning application has been handled in a perfectly normal manner throughout and there is no basis whatever for the inferences which your article attempted to draw.

I would like to place on record the following points concerning our application:

1. The plans which are the subject of the application were most care- fully prepared and the layout and design is of a very high standard. The details of the plans were mod- ified to respond to the criticisms of the objectors.

2. The extension of the works will allow the company to extend its activities and employ additional labour. The advantages to Bath of additional sources of employment does not need to be emphasized.

3. The company is engaged in a policy of diversification and expan- sion particularly in the export market. This extension will enable our plans to proceed in the most economic way.

I am making these points in order to correct the unfortunate impression that readers may have gained from the article.

Yours faithfully, B. G. HORSTMANN, Chairman, The Horstmann Gear Co Ltd, Newbridge Works, Bath, Avon, January 24.

The Bullock Report: factors in choice of directors

From Sir Archibald Russell, FRS

Sir, The Bullock report fails to recognize any difference in the decision making process within firms making boiled sweets to Grandma's recipe and those engaged in advanced technology. My own experience covers 50 years in the latter category during which time the product has shown remarkable change in form, performance and complexity. In parallel company organization has changed, from one privately owned, through various mergers into an amalgamation of five once independent units now forming one large corporation.

I can speak as a former director through each of these stages and finally as chairman of one of the divisions. This background covers intimate contacts with a wide variety of specialist sub-contractors engaged in almost every branch of engineering activity. Furthermore professional relationships include those engaged in similar interests in other parts of the world though very often we have been in direct competition.

The first significant fact is that within my corporation, the chairman of the main board and those at each of the divisions started his career as a humble member of most junior grade. Without exception all other members of the board came from within the organization being selected by recognized ability and established experience, some started as apprentices on the shop floor. I see the same pattern throughout the range of sub-contractors in our industry, and I am not aware that the shareholders had any influence whatsoever in the selection of individuals.

Another important point is that those responsible for running an industry that survives only by technical innovation have always been on the lookout for budding talent. This quality is a complex asset too difficult to define for it demands a combination of skill, adaptability, courage and a person- ality that fits within a team of co-workers. Our purpose. Our directors have by their own efforts promoted themselves.

Bullock now seems to recommend that such groups of professional experts be in large part broken up and reassembled to include men whose skills, if any, are of an elementary nature.

This can be seen as an extension into real life of the 'comprehensive' theory of mixed abilities including those lacking any form of proven qualification. Its application would be akin to a total commitment in full scale production without a prototype and proven performance.

Yours truly, ARCHIBALD RUSSELL, 2 Glandower House, Clifton Park, Clifton, Bristol.

From Lord Kaldor, FBA Sir, The violent opposition which the proposals of the Bullock Com- mittee evoked in our industrialists is in the context of the relative calm with which the same propos- als were received by the workers' participation to a parity basis throughout industry was accepted by their German counter- parts. No one who has had any contact with German employers or trade unionists can be in any doubt that the latter have played, a most important role in the success of German industry since the Second World War. For it was responsible for creating a feeling of joint interest and joint responsibility for the success of the enter- prise, and for the workers' co- operation which did not exist before.

As a German trade unionist said to me a year ago, "we quarrel of course bitterly over the division of the cake, but we are also con- vinced that the primary task is to make the cake as large as pos- sible. And that includes working as hard as we can to make sure that we are never late with deliveries."

One wonders why there is so little contact between British and German industrialists and how industrialists can be so ignorant of the causes of the success of German industry in the last 25 years, and of the role played by the spirit of co-operation between management and workers which is so lacking in this country. Can it be that the true cause of the opposition to the Bullock proposals lies elsewhere—in a conflict of interest between

Educating our masters

From Dr Alec Dickson Sir, In the Armed Forces an officer's career alternates between staff appointments and field postings, so that his experience combines both the action and administration: no one is a staff officer all his life. A staff officer in the United States foreign service who has worked in the Peace Corps is felt to have the edge on others since this background may be his only chance of acquir- ing the peasant's perspective in a Third World country.

These are factors which should carry weight in considering the "education of our masters". It is not just that intellectual excellence, an apprenticeship in planning and Staff College courses can produce a civil servant superbly equipped in many ways—but still lacking that insight which derives from having served, so to speak, in the front line. With the advent of terrorism in Britain, with the pent-up frustra- tions that can erupt on a picket- line or amongst an ethnic minority, he may well find himself confronted with circumstances where the classic distinctions between administration and action, between advice and decision, no longer hold good. In such

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side up the road would love to gaze out of their windows at scrub- moving machinery—unfortunately, those windows were blocked with slurry and the houses abandoned a couple of months ago.

What is happening here is much worse than anything projected for the Vale of Belvoir. Unfortunately, chides and hounding rank are pretty thin on the ground as we need to support an influential champion. Will David Wood please volunteer?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Public spending on the arts

From the Chairman of The Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, I should like to associate my- self as strongly as possible with the recent plea in your columns from Mr. Melcom Arnold and other distinguished signatories (Letters, January 24) for a sensible, generous governmental attitude to the arts. There is no doubt that any drastic curtailment of the grant in real terms would do damage to many institutions laboriously cultivated and would abort many of the encouraging developments of recent years.

Perhaps the most damaging con- sequence would be a sense of betrayal from the vast army of volunteers whose efforts, unpaid, unheralded and unrecom- pensed, are at least as significant a con- tribution as any monetary grant from governmental sources. The Arts Council itself enjoys the assistance of a small battalion of people giv- ing of their time and service unstintingly and without any reward or quest for it. Among them are many of the great names in the world of the arts and their skill and judgement assist enormously in the wise distribution of the available funds.

But having said this, perhaps I might utter a word of partial reassurance. I do not myself believe that for the coming financial year Parliament will be asked to vote for a figure which would have a crippling effect, though it may not be possible to avoid some damage. I am confident that the Minister will do his best to ensure at least a standstill figure that takes account of inflation though it should be remembered that the Arts Council has calculated that the current annual rate of inflation in the arts is 21 per cent, which is higher than the general level.

The real threat is to future years. There has been no official pro- nouncement since the White Paper in February, 1976, on public expendi- ture to 1979/80, which showed a significant cut in the grant for 1978/79 and 1979/80. This was qualified by a statement that there would be a further review when Mr. Harold Wilson became Prime Minister. A year has passed, no more has been heard of this report, and the Prime Minister has said that it is not to be published.

Here I would—on the threshold of my own retirement from the chairmanship—urge the Govern- ment to maintain a proper sense of proportion. The money is in bud- getary terms insignificant. The cut, if made, would in my view be pur- suant to a ridiculous principle that economies should be right across the board and that the relative size of the expenditure and its relative importance.

The central government subsidy for the arts, of which the Arts Council's grant is a part, repre- sents less than 5p per head of the population per week. In relation to the real need it is a very inade- quate amount and that this should be the subject of doctrinaire reduc- tions would be shameful. Yours faithfully, GIBSON, Chairman, The Arts Council of Great Britain, 105 Piccadilly, W1.

From Mr George Ivan Smith Sir, Over the years Mr. Ivan Smith has had talks or negotiations with many distinguished people who sought to help him to move towards a settlement just to all Rhodesians and peaceful in its unfolding. Lord Goodman, Lord Home, Mr. Wilson and now Mr. Richard are among the many who insist that they had reached some form of understanding only to find it vanished.

Mr Smith's excuses varied but the hard political fact is that Mr. Smith, even before he became Prime Minister in 1964, set himself one simple political aim: to entrench white Rhodesian power directly or indirectly and no internal African pressure, and no external pressure would be permitted to take him a fraction of a degree off his projected course.

The seeming confusions and negative reactions following numerous meetings are not the expressions of a muddled mind but are carefully and cleverly calculated tactics designed to support his political aim.

I first became aware of this when, in the years leading up to UDI, I was the political representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and covered that region.

Every act by Mr. Smith has been one to fit his plan to divide oppo- sition, African or otherwise. Deten- tions and releases were devised to diffuse opposition and now the recent "Kwame Nkrumah" was a "moderate" wing with which to negotiate in the same class. There is no way in which a peaceful solution can be found unless all African political elements are brought in for negotiations as the British plan propose.

The African front-line states, Rhodesian Nationalists and Mr. Vorster are reported as supporting the British line of negotiation, but Mr. Smith alone, using old tactics, falls back on a confusing line that the "Kwame Nkrumah" was a "moderate" wing with which to negotiate in the same class. There is no way in which a peaceful solution can be found unless all African political elements are brought in for negotiations as the British plan propose.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

P will double investment in Britain to £2,700m during the next five years

David Steel, chairman of the British Petroleum group, said today that the company would double its investment in Britain over the next five years to £2,700m.

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Mr Steel, BP chairman, hoping to recover £250m investment in two years.

Two years the initial investment in the Forties field will have been covered, with a further 23 years of life ahead for the field. It was the flow of cash from the Forties field which made it possible for BP to go ahead with such a major investment programme. The Forties field was operating at about 350,000 barrels a day, and was expected to reach peak production of between 400,000 and 500,000 barrels a day by the end of this year.

ment, he said, had to be followed by a period of consolidation, and he hoped the fifth licensing round would lead to renewed activity and investment. BP was considering ordering a third platform for the Ninian field. "Development costs for offshore oil and gas have increased enormously with greater water depths, a harsher environment and continuing inflation. A single exploration well in about 600ft of water can now cost £3m, and a platform in similar depths £150m. As we move even further into uncharted waters, the risk factor must also increase. "For the nation as a whole, the main benefit of North Sea oil is the massive surplus it is already beginning to contribute to our balance of payments account as well as the substantial in-flow of capital funds. Plainly this cure for the balance of payments troubles that has so often upset our hopes and plans over the past 20 years gives us a golden chance, but it is no substitute for the other measures vital for our economic regeneration. These included the fight against inflation which could destroy our industrial structure if we lost, the need for greater investment based on healthy profits in manufacturing industries, a better balance between public and private sectors and, perhaps, above all, an improvement in industrial productivity to the standards achieved by European competitors so that our living standards could catch up theirs. "North Sea oil gives time for us to achieve these things," he said.

Clark family restructure Share stake in Plessey

By Richard Allen

Sir John Clark, 50-year-old chairman and chief executive of the Plessey organization, has substantially reduced his personal holding in the group. He has sold more than 518,000 shares for a sum believed to be in excess of £350,000, reducing his stake to 200,000 shares.

The Plessey board announced yesterday that Sir John whose family has been associated with the group since its inception had recently reorganized his personal affairs and decided to purchase an agricultural property. This had necessitated the sale of various assets including part of his Plessey holding.

At the same time trustees of two family settlements made by Sir John's father, the former chairman of the group, including Sir John and Mr Michael Clark, deputy chairman, have also sold 500,000 shares. This reduced their combined holdings in the group to 444,000 shares. The sales have been made as part of restructuring moves for capital transfer tax purposes.

The two lines of shares were placed with institutions by Sir John's advisers, Morgan Grenfell acting through Rowe & Pim, the stockbrokers. It is understood the deals were struck last week at a slight discount to the market price.



Sir John Clark: £69,000 a year as Plessey chairman

country's leading salary earners, issued a statement stressing his continued confidence in Plessey and adding that he would remain as full-time chairman and chief executive.

Last week Plessey announced that Sir John was unavailable for comment yesterday but a spokesman for Morgan Grenfell said he had been considering purchasing an agricultural property in England for some time. The purchase will remain secret until contracts have been exchanged.

Apert from any taxation benefits of investment in agricultural property, Sir John's leisure activities cover several country pursuits, including golf and shooting.

BAC seeks airliner deal in Romania

By Arthur Reed

Two of Europe's biggest aerospace groups are competing for multi-million pound deals with Romania under which that country would produce their airliners on a cooperative basis.

The groups are the British Aircraft Corporation, with its own Caravelle 475 airliner, and the Dutch-West German VFW-Fokker, with its VFW 614.

Both concerns have had members of their senior management in Romania recently meeting officials and politicians at up to Cabinet level, and both expressed guarded optimism yesterday that their proposals would succeed.

VFW-Fokker went so far as to predict that it would sign a deal within the first two weeks of this month. They have completed much detailed planning with the Romanians under which a new company would be established, with the Romanians owning 55 per cent and the Dutch 45 per cent.

A Romanian would be president of the company and a German the vice-president.

The Romanian contract is a glittering prize to the western companies, both of whose airliner production lines badly need an infusion of orders. A total of around 100 of whichever airliner is chosen will eventually be produced.

The VFW-Fokker 614 is a much smaller and newer airliner than the BAC One-Eleven, seating 44 compared with 89. Both have British jet engines.

Carborundum buys Weyburn for £16.6m

By John Brennan

Carborundum Co., the United States abrasives, engineering and pollution control group, yesterday won control of the British Weyburn Engineering group with a surprise £16.6m cash takeover.

The £25p a share cash offer, announced just before the Stock Market opened yesterday, has been accepted by Weyburn's directors and other shareholders representing 43.45 per cent of the equity. In early dealings yesterday Morgan Grenfell, acting for Carborundum, bought a further 6.7 per cent of the shares at 42p, giving the United States company voting control of Weyburn, which claims to be the world's largest independent producer of diesel engine components.

On news of the bid Weyburn's shares leapt 46p from Friday's closing price to 41p.

Mr Ronald Royston, Weyburn chairman, said yesterday that the group had had "lots of approaches from American companies in the last nine months". His decision to recommend this bid centred on Weyburn's plans to "set our sights very high" on further acquisitions.

Mr Royston explains that the American group is "sitting on

Sales losses feared over tax ruling on Marina 1.8

By Clifford Webb

A row blew up last night between British Leyland and the Inland Revenue because income tax inspectors are classifying the group's big-selling Marina 1.8 litre saloon in a higher bracket under the new company car taxation rules.

Unless the situation is clarified immediately, Leyland fears sales could be affected by companies switching to the smaller-engined 1.6 litre Ford Cortina, which is already the market leader in fleet and company sales.

Income tax assessments are now going out for the tax year beginning in April. Examples being quoted yesterday put drivers of Marina 1.8s into the above 1800cc class, which calls for a "benefit in kind" of £350.

But the Marina engine is officially rated at 1798cc, which places it in the lower category. This relates to cars of more than 1300cc but not more than 1800cc. They call for £225 to be taxed—£125 less.

A Leyland spokesman said: "The Marina 1.8 is quite clearly in the 1301 to 1800cc class and it is quite wrong for a tax inspector to rule otherwise. The Marina is our biggest fleet and company car and it is important that inspectors get it right."

The Inland Revenue said the onus for supplying correct information about company cars rested with employers who had to state the exact engine size. "It must be that in the cases referred to, this information has not been received," the spokesman said.

Arab blacklist warning forces Metal Box to look at Israel holdings

By Malcolm Brown

Metal Box group is considering pulling out of a 25-year-old investment in Israel after threats to several of its major customers from Arab countries.

The Reading-based group, which has a turnover of more than £500m a year, admitted yesterday that the question of its investment in the Israel Can Company, in which it has a 27 per cent stake, was now under discussion.

A senior director told *The Times*: "We are examining the very close implications and the consequences of the feasibility of disposing of our interest."

He emphasized that no final decision had yet been taken but the group was seriously concerned by the pressures being put on its customers. Arab countries, including Israel, had approached Metal Box customers with the warning that they could not sell in the Middle East if they continued to use Metal Box cans.

"What they are saying is that your goods are not acceptable in this country if they are packed in Metal Box cans," said the director.

Metal Box has been on the Arab blacklist for a number of years. Blacklists are not normally available outside the headquarters of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office in Damascus. But the name of Metal Box and its subsidiary, Metal Box Overseas, are both contained in a document compiled in France and now in the possession of *The Times*, which indicates that as many as 1,000 British companies may have been listed.

The group's blacklisting is a direct result of its investment in Israel Can. The boycott in Israel states that the criteria for blacklisting is the holding of shares in Israeli companies or factories.

Metal Box stressed yesterday that the discussions taking place were not an attempt to curry favour with Arab states. "If we have to get out it would not be for the ulterior motive of seeking greater riches over the horizon elsewhere."

The Metal Box director declined to name the British companies which had received threats but admitted that the pressures started to become more intense about 18 months ago. This would coincide with a major advertising campaign by the group which pictured 10 well-known products and proclaimed: "Seven out of 10 are ours", indicating that the products were packed in Metal Box cans.

The products were: Heinz baked beans, Del Monte crushed pineapple, John West red salmon, Green Giant Mexican corn, Spam chopped prime pork shoulder and ham, Campbell's tomato soup, Smedley garden peas, Pepsodent toothpaste, and Ind Coope Long Life beef.

The Metal Box issue will almost certainly result in renewed pressure on the Government to take a stronger line over the boycott. It is now clear from the trade figures that the boycott is having a significant effect on United Kingdom-Israel trade. Last year British imports from Israel increased nearly 41 per cent over the previous year, but exports went up only 5 per cent.

Businessmen and politicians with an interest in Israel are expressing concern, takes the line that the decision is purely commercial and must be taken by the companies concerned.

The Government, while expressing concern, takes the line that the decision is purely commercial and must be taken by the companies concerned.

Halewood strikers may go back today

By R. W. Shakespeare

A strike which has cost car production worth about £12m at Ford's giant Merseyside plant may be called off today. The 5,000 body shop workers, whose week-old stoppage has caused the layoff of another 4,500 assembly men at the Halewood plant, are being called to a meeting at Liverpool boxing stadium this morning, and shop stewards are expected to recommend an immediate return to work.

A decision to end the strike will come just in time to prevent more Ford workers being laid off at Dagenham and Southampton, where it was feared that production would have to be progressively run down because of shortage of body shells supplied from Halewood.

The shop stewards' decision to recommend an end to the strike was taken yesterday. They have agreed to accept a document which clarifies the

procedures to be applied in cases involving disciplinary action.

In the Midlands 270 drivers employed by James Car Deliveries have called off their two-week old strike which had halted "the movement of vehicles out of three of British Leyland car assembly plants, at Solihull, Longbridge (Birmingham), and Coventry."

At the Triumph plant at Coventry 1,900 workers had to be laid off.

A decision to end the immediate problems over car deliveries are at an end, there is a threat of more trouble. Yesterday a coordinating committee representing drivers employed by several car delivery firms in the Midlands decided in Coventry that unless British Leyland restricted access to its Jaguar plant to six companies by the week-end, drivers might apply sanctions again at all Leyland car plants in the Midlands.

Judi discord threatens output rise

By Vlevooye

Correspondent delay in boosting Saudi oil production to 10 million barrels a day by the 1st March could indicate a serious rift between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates over the Saudi oil price plan. At the last meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in December the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates increased their crude oil costs by 5 per cent against the 10 per cent rise by the eleven other members.

Without at least 1.5 million barrels a day of extra production the Saudis would find it difficult to persuade the eleven

other members to drop the idea of another 5 per cent rise in July, and possibly reach a compromise on prices for the remainder of the year.

Reports from within Opec suggest that some members might be willing to reach a compromise with the Saudis at a special meeting in the spring. Any indication that Saudi output will not go up could wreck the prospects for such a meeting.

Shell, on the other hand, has no doubts that production will increase and is planning to take the first cargo from the extra 200,000 barrels of Saudi oil it has purchased through Mobil, one of the partners in the Aramco consortium.

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sed curbs old help e-makers

guidelines to implement north moratorium on 2 per cent of public expenditure. Have gone to water authorities from the Environment could lead to some of the effects already felt by water and a pipe-making com-

short-time working is mounting throughout the country, according to the Pipe Association. Steel is discussing side unions introducing a three or four-day week in pipe-making. Stanton and Staveley last Midlands. Up to workers could be

in and Staveley largely from pipe, which is the main product of their production is pipe, the sector of industry worst affected by month moratorium on which began last

Concrete Pipe Association it would be possible, of the guidelines, for water authorities to some additional work a pipe-makers. Mr Ian O'Neill, association secretary, said: "It takes some of the worst of our work cannot save the industry from redundancies as extensive short-time. At best it will make up on orders, expected at its worst between September and October, less deep. sions are now to be between the trade association and the water authorities implementing the guidelines in methods of contracts could now be to help in assuring orders for some categories of pipe.

base 141 pc today the Finance Association's base rate was by half a point to 10 per cent. The FEA's base rate according to a fixed related to interbank the past eight weeks, falls, no discretionary

Mr Callaghan and team to meet shipbuilding chiefs

By Peter Hill

Mr Callaghan will intervene in the crisis affecting Britain's order-starved shipbuilding industry. He has invited leaders of Britain's shipping industry for talks next week to discuss measures which might encourage British owners to place more orders with domestic yards.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, will also be present with leaders of the General Council of British Shipping next Monday. They had planned to meet the committee themselves after discussions just before Christmas last year by the tripartite committee on shipbuilding composed of Whitehall officials, union leaders and members of the organizing committee for British Shipbuilders.

The Prime Minister met the CGS last October but since then the crisis has deepened. The industry is facing mounting pressure from both unions and employers to produce some short term stimulus to protect jobs until the uncertainty over nationalisation is removed.

Plans for a state holding company—which would take in yards in which the Government already has an interest—are well advanced.

Union leaders, who met Mr Varley last week, have been urging the creation of an intervention fund which could be used to close the gap between British prices and those offered by yards in Japan and elsewhere. Such a fund could involve at least £100m.

Against the background of efforts to coordinate European policy to curb Japanese expansion, a number of countries have announced their own rescue plans. The most recent is by the Dutch government—indications are that Whitehall has a similar plan although it will have to be scrutinized by the EEC Commission.

The Dutch government has said it is prepared to offer guarantees and credits to back a £250m plan to reorganize Holland's industry to make it competitive in the 1980s, with production capacity reduced by 30 per cent and the loss of 6,500 jobs.

Officials in Whitehall noted that the Dutch scheme was received coolly by commission officials but the feeling is that if the Dutch scheme goes through there is no reason why a British equivalent should not do so.

Any measures introduced will aid yards rather than subsidize shipowners and Mr Callaghan will press the CGS team to place more orders in Britain. He is expected to give some indication that through assistance to yards, prices may be brought more into line with those quoted by competitors.

The CGS team, which will be led by its president, Lord Inchcape, and will include Sir Lindsay Alexander, chairman of Ocean Transport & Trading and Mr John Wood, its director-general, will assess however that the prospects for new orders are not promising.

Davy International close to deal with Brazil

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Negotiations have reached an advanced stage between Davy International and the Brazilian Government which are expected to lead shortly to the signing of a £50m contract for the British company to supply a large blast furnace for the new steel complex to be built in Minas Gerais.

Top executives from the United Kingdom company are in Brazil, and according to Brazilian sources, a contract is likely to be signed very shortly. Davy is leading a consortium of United Kingdom and European plant fabricators who are involved in the construction of the new steel complex.

The first phase of the development being undertaken by the Brazilian state-owned company, Acominas, is due to be completed in 1980 when the plant will have a two million tonnes a year capacity, while eventual plans call for further increase to six million tonnes a year and possibly up to eight million tonnes. The blast furnace deal is expected to be the first of a series of deals which are expected to be concluded between now and the end of March involving hundreds of millions of pounds between British companies and Brazilian enterprises. They follow the State visit to Britain last May by President Ernesto Geisel of Brazil.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 163.17-3.72
The FT index: 390.5-12.7

Rises: Aeronautics 15p to 66p, Furness Withy 7p to 24p

Falls: Ash Fort Cement 3p to 18p, Seedcorn 5p to 40p, Courtlands 5p to 10p, EMI 9p to 25p, Fisons 7p to 32p, GEC 7p to 18p, Gen Accident 11p to 16p, Grand Met 4p to 71p, Jamnori Life 10p to 20p, Lmp Chem Ind 10p to 35p, Metal Box 10p to 27p, Nitrate Explor 15p to 37p

Equities were hit by profit taking. Gold edged 7 cents at office to \$132.375. SDR-E was 1.1525/1 on Friday while SDR-E was 0.671935.

Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1613.1 (previous 1613.3). Reports, pages 26 and 21

On other pages: Appointments vacant 13, Business appointments 20, Dairy 19, Financial Editor 19, Financial news 20, 21

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia \$	1.62	1.58
Austria Sch	30.75	28.75
Belgium Fr	65.75	62.75
Canada \$	1.74	1.74
Denmark Kr	18.48	18.08
Finland Mk	6.75	6.50
France Fr	6.75	6.42
Germany DM	4.32	4.18
Greece Dr	73.50	69.88
Hongkong \$	8.40	7.95
Italy Lr	1605.00	1535.00
Japan Yn	515.00	490.00
Netherlands Gld	4.50	4.28
Norway Kr	4.41	4.05
Portugal Esc	59.50	55.50
S Africa Rd	2.17	2.04
Spain Pes	121.50	113.75
Sweden Kr	7.61	7.25
Switzerland Fr	4.47	4.25
US \$	1.78	1.74
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	32.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Customers may apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

GUINNESS PEAT GROUP LIMITED

Interim Statement for the year ending 30th April 1977

Profits and Dividend: Group profits for the year to date are well ahead of those for the same period last year and the board have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 3.5p per share, an increase of 0.5p per share over the interim dividend declared last year. It is the board's intention to pay for the year the maximum dividend permitted under current legislation.

Current Developments: Two important recent developments overseas, in Brazil and Kenya, together with similar existing ventures in other countries, can be expected to make useful and continuing contributions to the group's profits. On January 20, the group chairman, Lord Kinnaird, attended the formal opening in Brazil of a new cocoa processing plant supplied by Guinness Peat for Barretto de Araujo Produtos do Cacau S.A. which makes the Brazilian company the world's largest producer of cocoa products. Guinness Peat, through a jointly-owned marketing company, will market Barretto's cocoa products internationally. On January 21 an agreement was signed in Kenya for a £12 million agro-chemical plant to produce the chemical fural from maize cobs. Guinness Peat are heading the international consortium of companies building the plant and will also be responsible on an on-going basis for the provision of management and marketing services.

Associated Companies: The group's principal associated companies are showing substantially increased profits at the interim stage. Linford Holdings Ltd, in which the group has a 22.9% stake, has announced an offer for Gateway Securities. On the successful completion of the bid Guinness Peat Group expect that their interest in Linford will be maintained at approximately 20%.

Dividend Details: Rate per share net of tax credit

	1977	1976
Year ending 30th April 1977	3.5p	890,637
Interim payable 4th March 1977 (record date 11th February 1977)	3.0p	759,015
Year ending 30th April 1976	3.0p	1,342,665
Interim paid 6th March 1976	5.2753p	8,2753p
Final paid 28th October 1976	8.2753p	2,101,680

Registered Office: 32 St. Mary at Hill, London EC3R 8DH

Leyland bows to Ryder call for research and development centre

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars yesterday announced plans to rectify one of the main weaknesses highlighted by the Ryder report—the absence of a research, development and design centre of the type enjoyed by all its big European competitors.

The state car group has submitted outline plans to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for a 1.5 million sq ft complex which will house 5,000 engineers, technicians and back-up staff by the mid-1980s.

The site chosen after months of investigation by a special project team is close to the junction of the M42 motorway and the A34 Stratford-on-Avon

to Birmingham road. It is conveniently located for access to Leyland's Midland car factories and the proposed test track to be built at Gaydon, near Warwick.

Research and development work is at present carried out on up to 12 different sites with the main concentrations at Triumph-Coventry, Rover Solihull and Longbridge, near Birmingham.

Although some new jobs will be created, most of the 5,000 will be able to move to the Solihull site from existing R&D departments without changing their homes.

Leyland last night declined to give any cost figures. A spokesman said: "Planning of the centre is still in its initial

stages but it is necessary to submit a planning application in order to secure a location and to permit detailed plans and estimates to be prepared.

"If the application is successful it is thought that the first stage will be completed by 1981. The outline plan for the centre is under review within British Leyland before submission to the National Enterprise Board."

The full scheme is not due for completion until the mid 1980s—at least five years behind the target date of 1979 which was set in the Ryder report.

The site has been chosen in close consultation with shop steward members of Leyland's joint union-management participation committee.

NEDO urges machine tool industry to keep its workers informed

By Edward Townsend

In its first detailed study of industrial workers' attitudes, the National Economic Development Office has called for better communications within the United Kingdom machine tool industry with the establishment of extensive consultation procedures.

The study, the result of interviews with 200 employees, including management, shop stewards, foremen and shop floor workers, says that many machine tool companies have communication difficulties and there is scope for substantial improvement.

"Improved communications will require more extensive consultation and a better flow of information from management to both shop stewards and employees on a wide range of issues. These include the financial position of the company, investment plans, the order book and any planned changes in methods of working."

The study, conducted by NEDO on behalf of the machine tools Little Nedd, advocates setting up a wide range of communication channels. By giving employees a direct financial interest in company performance some communication problems could be overcome, it says, as long as companies ensured that such schemes were relevant and made available to workers regular information about the pay scheme.

In a foreword, Mr Anthony Frodsham, chairman of the Little Nedd, says that the sense of commitment of employees in the industry, which became apparent during the interviews, "is one of the long-anticipated valuable assets and provides a firm base on which companies and their employees should seek to build in the coming years."

The study's lengthy series of recommendations includes important suggestions to correct



Mr Frodsham: valuable asset in employees' attitudes.

the slide of earnings in the industry which has left average pay rates below those of manufacturing industry as a whole.

That skills in the machine tool sector may be undervalued, leading to recruitment difficulties in the future, leads NEDO to urge companies and unions carefully to review pay levels for skilled men when pay policy permits.

Meanwhile, companies are urged to attempt greater harmonization of employment conditions for non-manual and skilled manual workers, including sick pay, pensions, holiday pay, clothing procedures and canteen facilities.

Low profitability in the industry, however, is seen as a brake to such improvements and must be flanked by "a substantial increase in productivity". This, says the study, can be achieved by ending the more extreme effects of the machine tool ordering cycle, which would need the long-anticipated Government counter-cyclical investment support scheme, and by winning workers' support for better manpower use.

The interviews underlined the importance of security of employment, says the study.

Home prices slipped in last quarter

House prices slipped on average by about 1 per cent in the last quarter of 1976 according to statistics released yesterday by the Department of the Environment. Over the year, however, prices rose on average by 7 per cent.

The average price of homes on which new mortgages were approved—as opposed to completed loans which are negotiated some six or so weeks earlier—dropped from £13,350 to £13,258. The decrease, says the DoE, "may simply reflect seasonal factors".

However, the average trend conceals the greater resilience of new house prices. Although a smaller proportion of overall sales, they in fact, rose by 1 per cent in the last quarter, the average price for new homes is now £13,830, 8½ per cent higher than in the last quarter of 1975.

For second-hand homes the average price was £13,140, 7 per cent higher than a year ago, and 1 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 1976.

During the year there was little variation in the percentage advance to new borrowers. At the approval stage the average advance was 23,500 in the last quarter, representing 64 per cent of the purchase price compared with 64 per cent in the previous quarter and 64 a year ago.

Winter is not a brisk time for house sales and the last quarter of 1976 also saw the introduction of the 12½ per cent mortgage interest rate causing buyers and sellers to pause, however momentarily.

Another reason for the slight setback in house prices might, as the DoE points out, result from the mix of dwellings on which new mortgages were approved or completed in that quarter.

£3m titanium deal lifts IMI orders to £12m

By Clifford Webb

Central Electricity Generating Board estuary and coastal power stations are being re-equipped with millions of feet of titanium condenser tubing to combat salt water corrosion.

The move has brought big orders for IMI's New Metals Division at an opportune time. It is Britain's only producer of titanium and demand for this material has been depressed in recent years.

A new £3m order for 2.7 million ft for the board's Littlebrook "D" power station raises the total value of titanium tubes supplied for this purpose to more than £12m.

IMI's sales have risen five-fold in the past four years, making it now the world's largest producer of titanium tubing.

Orders have also been received from Italy and the West Indies. The CEGB completed the first conversion at West Thurrock

power station on the Thames in 1970. After two years' testing it decided to go ahead with a full conversion at the same station. Since then there have been no leakage problems and thermal efficiency has improved by some 4 per cent.

But the big "breakthrough" came when the board decided to use titanium tube for the two 650MW generating sets specified for the advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactor station at Heysham, Lancs.

Since then orders have been placed for similar tubing for the five 650MW turbines at Grain, the oil-fired station under construction on the Medway, Ince station in Cheshire and for one condenser at the Wylfa Magnox nuclear station.

An IMI spokesman said yesterday that American, European and Japanese power utilities had made increasing use of the material.

Mr Dell ends Bonn visit

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Jan 31
Mr Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, left here today clearly impressed by what he had learnt of the German system of industrial democracy.

Speaking at the end of two days of talks with West German government officials and representatives of both sides of industry, Mr Dell said he had found positive opinion that industrial democracy in Germany had contributed to the country's economic success.

While acknowledging that conditions in Britain were very different, Mr Dell added that he could see no justification for the view of those who argued that a system of industrial democracy could not be introduced in Britain.

Nor had he seen anything here to suggest that industrial democracy could not be built on to the British system of industrial relations.

West Germany has a highly developed system of industrial democracy encompassing labour courts, workers' councils at plant level and a two-tier board system. In contrast to the majority proposals of the Bullock Committee, workers' representatives in Germany sit on the supervisory board, the institution which oversees the activities of the managing board which handles the day to day running of the company.

Mr Dell said he had been impressed by the importance attached in Germany to the supervisory board.

Exporters to pay one-third more for ECGD cover

By Melvyn Westlake

Exporters face increases of a third in the cost of insuring themselves against overseas debt in the wake of a general overhaul of premiums by the Government-run Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The increases in insurance premiums, which will take effect from April 1, were announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

It is only the second time since the war that premiums have been raised, and it is hoped that there will be no need for any further general increase for two years.

The ECGD, which insures about 35 per cent of all British exports, has been faced with mounting claims in recent years, partly as a result of a higher level of total business, but also partly reflecting some deterioration in the trading climate.

Claims rose from £29.9m in 1974-75, to £42m in 1975-76, and "show no signs of falling", according to the department.

As a result, its reserves last year only accounted for about 2½ per cent of total sums at risk, compared with the ratio of 3 per cent that is thought to be desirable.

The ECGD, which under-

writes exporters against non-payment by foreign buyers and assists in the financing of export credit sales through the issue of guarantees to banks, is obliged to break even "taking one year with another".

For the bulk of the department's business—exports sold on credit of up to six months—premiums rise on average by 8p per £100 of export business covered, bringing average rates to 32p per £100.

For "extended terms", the average increase will be about 10p per £100 insured, bringing the average premium to 83p per £100.

The cost of ECGD guaranteed business—whereby banks provide export finance—will rise from 12½p to 15p per £100, where exports are sold on credit of up to two years; and from 25p maximum to 32p per £100 insured, on exports sold on more than two years credit.

For Buyer Credit Guarantees on project business (where United Kingdom banks which make finance available for foreign buyers to pay British exporters working on large capital goods contracts) and for specific guarantees (supplier credit for capital goods contracts) the increase will be 10 per cent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let banks reveal clients' tax evasions

From Mr W. Vose

Sir, Much attention has been focused on confidentiality in banking and finance as a result of the Bullock Committee's Minority Report which seeks to exclude banking from any legislation which would give employers access to bank boards. Needless to say, my Union rejects the proposals of this minority report and supports the main recommendation of the Committee.

There is, however, another aspect to confidentiality, and that is the relationship between the individual bank customer and the bank official dealing with the customer's account.

We recognize that the Banker's duty of secrecy is crucial in upholding the highest tradition of banking, but a number of union members are becoming increasingly aware that they are sometimes forced to become custodians of information which indicates tax evasion on the part of a customer.

In such circumstances the role of enforced and reluctant confidant is unacceptable to our members and we would like to see legislation introduced so that customers are unable to hide their tax evasions behind their Banker's duty of secrecy.

Readers of The Times may

be aware that a Banker's duty of secrecy is not absolute but qualified and the following examples of exemptions were cited in the case of Tournier National Provincial Bank 1923:

(a) Where disclosure is in the public interest.
(b) Where there is a duty to the public to disclose.
(c) Where the interests of the bank require disclosure.

Yours faithfully,
BILL VOSE,
Assistant Secretary,
National Union of Bank
Employees,
Sheffield House,
Essex, Surrey.

Patents Bill text needs transportation

From Mr John Bushell

Sir, There are three good reasons why the Patents Bill should quote language from the European Patents Convention:

1. To make clear that we fulfil our Treaty obligations.
2. To avoid the complexities of two different systems of law, both applying to patents effective in this country.
3. To obtain recognition and weight in overseas courts for British judgments, in the development of European and Community patent law.

The brief report of the Second Reading in your issue of January 25 mentions Lord Alexander of Potterhill's speech on this. Brevity doubtless precluded your reporting the Lord Chancellor's reply. Those who have read Hansard must be amazed by it, for the reason the Lord Chancellor gave for non-correspondence of Bill and Convention language is the difficulty of translation.

How can this be? There is an authentic English text of the European Patents Convention, signed on behalf of the United Kingdom Government. What is required is translation, not translation, from this text.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BUSHELL,
35 Currier Street,
London, EC4A 1PO.

Radical changes needed in ferrous foundries

From Mrs J. F. M. Dodgson

Sir, The article by Maurice Costello on the ferrous foundries (January 19) prompts me to write more fully about one aspect of the problem. He says, "Foundries are not pleasant places of work..." This must be one of the understatements of the year if the workplace which has been described to me is representative of foundries as a whole. There would be an outcry if domestic animals had to endure such stressful conditions.

1. Physical exertion in extreme heat. During last year's heatwave the temperature rose to 130-140°F. Weights of up to 150lb have to be manipulated.
2. Inadequate or non-existent ventilation.
3. Intolerable levels of dust from potentially dangerous minerals, due to poorly designed and badly maintained extraction systems. The dust is often so thick that it is impossible to see across the factory floor.
4. A constant high level of noise, probably above that at which damage to hearing starts to occur.
5. Intermittent exposure of the eyes to the glare of white hot molten metal.
6. Frequent minor and not so minor burns from flying particles of metal or from accidental spillages.

The chief safeguard against these hazards to workers' health, both present and long term, appears to be few items of protective clothing. These merely make working conditions more unpleasant because they exacerbate the discomfort. Gaiters are discarded because legs are sore from sweat. As a result, pieces of molten metal can and do get trapped in the operators' boots, causing burns which take weeks to heal. A slurry of dust and sweat builds up on the worker's face if he chooses to wear the paper mask which management offers as an answer to the dust problem. Glasses are compulsory to protect eyes from the extreme heat and from foreign bodies, but tinted lenses are only supplied on production of a letter from a doctor. The difficulty is that both blinding glare and murky gloom, when the worker powers up the die before casting, are encountered on the same job.

The workers themselves believe that their firm is making handsome profits. The truth may be more complicated, but the fact that they think this to be the case can only heighten the feeling of "them and us" which so bedevils British industry. It is to be hoped that the £22m which the Government is making available to the ferrous foundries will only be granted to those firms undertaking a radical improvement in working conditions. This is public money. It is time that the pressure of public opinion should be brought to bear upon those who are responsible for the health and welfare of a little known but vitally important part of this country's workforce.

Yours faithfully,
JANET DODGSON,
Flood Street Farm,
Bramore,
Fordingbridge,
Hampshire.

Whitbread strike made official

A brewery dispute which has stopped Whitbread's supplies to pubs in East Anglia for more than three weeks has been made official, Mr Paul Greenough, a district officer of the transport workers' union said yesterday.

The dispute is over a new delivery system. Mr Greenough said the union now regarded it as a lockout and no members would be allowed to cross the picket lines.

Record beer output

More than 40 million bulk barrels of beer were produced in the United Kingdom last year for the first time—11,548 mil-

lion pints. This is 1.65 per cent above the previous record in 1975, the Brewers' Society said yesterday.

Japan car exports up

Japan's 1976 motor exports rose 38.5 per cent to 3.71 million units, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said. Exports including components, were valued at 510,295m (about £6,000m) in 1976, up 44.3 per cent from 1975.

Interest rates cut

The maximum rate of interest relief grant and

interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 were being reduced with immediate effect, the Department of Industry said yesterday. All rates are being reduced by half of one per cent.

Chemical growth hope

West Germany's chemical industry is expecting another year of above-average growth in 1977, although the strong advance of 1976 will not be repeated, Professor Rolf Sammet, chief executive of Hoechst AG and president of the German Chemical Industry Association, said yesterday.

Honeywell and MDS 'distributed' systems

New moves into "distributed processing" have been announced by Honeywell Information Systems and by Mohawk Data Sciences. Honeywell's announcement includes the company's largest computer as well as a concept known as "Distributed Systems Environment"; the MDS offering is based on a new series of low-cost operator stations for basic types of distributed computing.

Mr Brian Long, director of marketing and planning for Honeywell Information Systems in the United Kingdom, said the distributed systems environment was made up of three elements—information processing, data management and network processing.

Information processing was represented by a supervisory host computer at a central site; satellite computers at strategic locations; and terminals which enabled people to enter and extract information.

For data management, software was needed which would handle data entry, storage and access across the entire system, while freeing the people using the system from any concern about how the database was structured.

Thirdly, the network processing involved communications hardware and software which provided for the movement of data while allowing all components of the system to work together more effectively.

Within this framework, users would tailor the system to meet their own needs. Honeywell's new products, Mr Long said, included host, front-end and network processors; communications software; and terminals.

Speaking at the London launch of the new products, Mr Long said the new United Kingdom managing director of Honeywell Information Systems, said 1976 had been a good year for Honeywell's worldwide computer business.

Computer orders in the

Computer news

United Kingdom rose by 17 per cent, with total turnover up 14 per cent, and exports representing 29 per cent of the total.

Among the product announcements was the 66/85, the largest computer yet launched by Honeywell. Cost of a typical system would be about £3m.

Towards the other end of the computing scale, the new Series 21 systems announced by Mohawk are based on groups of personal stations which, in the initial versions, will handle either data entry or application processing.

Well known as a pioneer of key-to-tape data-entry systems for computers, MDS now makes data recorders, key-to-disc systems, "intelligent" terminals and preprocessors.

Mr Ralph O'Brien, president of Mohawk Data Sciences, said he believed that the new series would do for distributed processing what the key-to-tape data recorder did for data entry over a decade ago. "We see a new standard for low-cost source document conversion then; we now plan to do the same for a broad range of distributed applications."

Transatlantic data

Under a trial service due to start on February 14, users of the Post Office's Data 200 service will be able to gain access to databases in the United States operated by Tymnet Inc. This follows an agreement between the Post Office and Tymnet for an international database subjects include chemistry, engineering, oil and gas production, pollution, patents, agriculture, oceanography, the weather, economics, transport and medicine.

Kenneth Owen

MCCORQUODALE

International specialist printers

Year ended 30 September

	1976	1975
Group turnover	£44,985	£40,864
Profit before tax	1,048	2,344
Equity earnings	766	1,300
Earnings per share	5.1p	27.0p
Ordinary dividend	12.75p	12.75p

Mr Alastair McCorquodale, Chairman, reports:

* Profit of Group disappointing as a result of trading loss by The Falconer Company.

* Continued investment in new equipment.

* A good and encouraging start made to the current year.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from:
The Secretary, McCorquodale & Company Limited
P.O. Box 66, McCorquodale House, Telford Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2YA.

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